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WOLSTANTON, 1797.

The Parson crossing the Marsh.

From the original water-colour drawing in possession of Mrs. Adams, at Moreton House.

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WOLSTANTON:
(WOLSTAN'S TOWN)

A brief History of the ancient Church, Parish, and Village.

BY

PERCY W. L. ADAMS.

With numerous illustrations.

Second Edition.

TUNSTALL:
EDWIN H. EARDLEY.
MCMVIII.

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To

MY MOTHER

LAURA E. ADAMS,

WHO HAS INTERESTED HERSELF IN WOLSTANTON VILLAGE FOR OVER FORTY YEARS, AND FIRST TAUGHT ME TO BE INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY, I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.

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141-9870

"To save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."

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PREFACE.

I print these few pages without apology for they are only meant to preserve a little information I have been able to gather concerning Wolstanton's ancient Parish Church, and I have added sundry other particulars about the parish (and village) in its earlier days—the parish so much more extensive than it is to-day, which otherwise might have been forgotten as each generation goes by. Doubtless among the Sneyd papers at Keele, or elsewhere, there is a great deal of extremely interesting earlier matter relating to the parish and possibly to its Parish Church, which I hope some energetic person will be able some day to publish in a biography upon the Sneyd family. Surely it would be very interesting.

I wish to thank the Vicar of the Parish, the Rev. Charles James Winn, M.A., for allowing me access to the old parish papers and registers, also for general help, and the Rev. Selwyn Thompstone, M.A., of Knutton, for kindly revising proofs of this little book.

P. W. L. A.,

Moreton House,
Wolstanton.

March 2nd, 1908.

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Wolstan and Wolstanton 1

CHAPTER II.

Dedication 16

CHAPTER III.

The Church Yard 20

CHAPTER IV.

The Story of the Interior of the Church ... 24

CHAPTER V.

Vicars 41

CHAPTER VI.

Tithes : Vicarage and Schools 50

CHAPTER VII.

Population of the Parish and brief description of the earlier village 57

CHAPTER VIII.

Dimsdale, Bradwell, etc. 69

CHAPTER IX.

Tunstall 83

Index 107

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Wolstanton Marsh, 1797	*Frontispiece*	
Wolstanton Church, 1857	facing page	13
Wolstanton Church at present day ...	„	20
The Toll-gate at Brownhills ...	„	22
Altar Tomb of Sir William Sneyd, of Bradwell, and Dame Anne, his wife	„	29
Shields of Arms from Wolstanton Church	„	38
Moreton House	„	40
Newchapel Old Church	„	58
Lewis Adams of Watlands, Esquire ...	„	62
The Watlands	„	65
Basford Hall	„	67
Front view of Dimsdale Old Hall (1900)	„	72
Bradwell	„	75
Ralph Sneyd of Keele Hall, Esquire, D.L.	„	77
Back view of Dimsdale Old Hall (18th century)	„	79
Tunstall, Old and New	„	83
Remains of Tunstall Manor Court Leet	„	86
Tunstall Old Windmill	„	86
Christ Church, Tunstall, (about 1840)	„	88
Turnhurst	„	90
Smith Child of Newfield, Esquire ... (Admiral of the Blue.)	„	102

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ERRATA.

p. 76. For "1575," read 1757.

p. 104. For "first Drill Hall in Tunstall," read first Volunteer Drill Hall in Tunstall.

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Chapter I.

ANCIENT HISTORY.
WOLSTAN and WOLSTANTON.
(including Chesterton in the old parish of Wolstanton).

HOW Christianity came to England is not known, but according to Tertullian there were Christians in Britain at the close of the 2nd Century. British Bishops were present at the Council of Arles (France) A.D. 314 and Rimini 359, and were represented at Nicæa 325. But the British, (whose descendants are the Welsh of to-day) were driven into Wales and Cornwall by the invading English, who were heathen. Thus five-sixths of the country including Staffordshire was once more pagan. Staffordshire became part of the kingdom of Mercia when England was divided up into seven kingdoms (Heptarchy). Later on, Mercia under the leadership of Penda the Strong (The British Champion of heathenism) made a bid to become the strongest of the kingdoms, and Penda almost succeeded in crushing Christianity out of Northumbria which had been planted there by Paulinus, the envoy of St. Augustine, the Roman Missionary, but Penda was eventually slain by Oswiu at the battle of Winwaed, 655, after which Christianity

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began to gain ground once more. We have very little to remind us of those very earliest times, for the Churches were generally built of wood and easily destroyed by marauders. Indeed probably the earliest memorial of the past in this district is a relic of Druidical superstition namely, the "Bride Stones," situated on the borders of Staffordshire and Cheshire, and although not actually in the ancient Parish of Wolstanton, is standing on its borders. The Bride Stones themselves are situated 3 miles east of Congleton, and claimed by Staffordshire people as within Biddulph, and by Cheshire, as belonging to Buglawton. It has been suggested that these structures of large stones, perpendicularly placed, and in the case in question, containing an area of 18 feet by 11, and probably at one time covered with large stones placed horizontally, were used as British Temples for celebrating the marriage rite. They are supposed to have been built by the British tribe called the Cornavii, a name said to signify "Holy District," which tribe settled in the centre of England, then a dense forest tract. Saxons knowing the tradition concerning these British Temples called them by the name by which they are known to-day. Some have considered them to be altars of sacrifice, or tombs of the chief Druids. They appear to have been allowed to stand during the Roman Invasion; the troublous

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times between the Welsh, who were then Christian; the Picts, and Scots; and the incursions of the Danes. Possibly the only other objects of antiquity which remain to us other than the Roman roads are of later date, namely the castles which were built on precipitous eminences, the owners of which maintained a garrison for the protection of themselves and for those who held lands under them. Such castles in this district being Heleigh,* Mediolanum, (Chesterton),† and Stafford.

The following interesting information concerning Chesterton and Wolstanton, and the old Roman Road in this district has been written by the Rev. Thomas Barns, M.A., of Hilderstone Vicarage, and read at the North Staffordshire Field Club, and is inserted here by his permission.

CHESTERTON AND WOLSTANTON.

"Two Iters (routes) only refer to Staffordshire,
1 The second Iter ‡ reads MAMVCIO . . . m p m xviii. CONDATE . . m p m xviii . DEVA . LEG . xx. VICT. m p m xx . BOVIO . . . m p m x . MEDIOLANO . . . m p m xx . . . . . .

The tenth Iter reads: MANCVNIO . . . m p m xvii CONDATE . . . m p m xviii MEDIOLANO . . . m p m xviiii. §

---

* The remains of Heleigh, (near Newcastle) and Stafford are yet to be seen.

† The remains of Chesterton Castle were to be seen in the 16th century, *Erdeswick.*

‡ The Antonine Itinerary. Mon. Hist. Brit. xx.

§ Gale and the M.H.B. read xviii. The above is Canon Ravens reading.

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Justice has not been done to the Staffordshire section of the Intinerary.

Neither Mediolanum nor Rutunium appear in the Index to Mr. Codrington's "Roman Roads in Briton" and yet the identification of Mediolanum is of the first importance. It rests on the identification of Condate. This name occurs both in the Second and the Tenth Iter. There is no doubt that Manchester represents the Manucium or Mancunium of the Itinerary. The stage from Manchester to Condate is eighteen miles in each Iter. The distance between Condate and Deva in the second Iter is twenty miles, and between Condate and Mediolanum in the tenth Iter is eighteen miles.

Condate is therefore about equi-distant from Manchester, Chester (Deva) and Mediolanum, *Horsley*'s site for Condate is certainly the correct one. The name implies the confluence of two rivers and this Northwich (Condate) site conjectured by *Horsley* is at the junction of the Weaver and the Dane. Mr. Codrington accepts it and Mr. Lynam has satisfied himself as to the remains of an important station at Northwich.

The identification of Condate with Northwich carries with it the identification of Mediolanum. The road of the second Iter from Northwich enters Staffordshire by the Talke entrenchments. . . .

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and passes through Windy Arbour and Red Street to Chesterton. The distance between Northwich and Chesterton more or less corresponds with the numbers in the Iter between Condate and Mediolanum.

The second Iter approaches Chesterton from Chester. There is little doubt that Bovium is represented by Bunbury near Beeston Castle, the word itself being still preserved in the element "Bun" a corruption of Bovium. This identification of Bovium taken together with that of Condate should remove the last shadow of doubt as to the identification and importance of Chesterton. The station at Chesterton like most Staffordshire sites has been very fruitless of remains, and notwithstanding the building that has taken place, nothing of interest has been reported. The Camp still shows traces of its roads, but the south-west fosse has been used as a tip for rubbish. The name implies some importance as a Celtic centre. The Mediolanum of Italy, now Milan, was the centre of the Celtic clan of the Insubres; the Mediolanum of Gaul, now Saintes, was the centre of the Santoni. Mr. Lynam does not agree with me as to the antiquity of the circular site on which Chesterton Hall stands, but I think the matter calls for further investigation.

The Thorn is of very great age and was certainly there before the house was built. These vener-

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able trees often witness to a site hallowed by Celtic heathendom. * And Celtic Christendom nearly always possessed itself of these sacred sites of Celtic heathendom. Milan and Saintes were both amongst the most important centres of early Christianity in North Italy and Gaul, and there is evidence of Celtic Christianity in the near neighbourhood of Chesterton. There is a tradition of seven Churches at Church Fields or Dunkirk on the Wolstanton side of Chesterton under the Camp, and such a tradition finds no parallel in the organization of the English Church,† and again in the neighbourhood of Talke there is another Dunkirk itself suggestive of Church life in Celtic times. It is probable on the analogy of the evidence of Church history in Gaul that at one or other of these sites there was a college of the Clergy of St. Martin of Tours ‡ whose Mission work and influence spread throughout Gaul and Britain at the close of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth century, and that the Martinmas tradition derived their origin from an early Christian centre at Chesterton.

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* Wood Martin. Elder Faiths of Ireland, Vol. II. p. 156.

† Willis Bund. The Celtic Church in Wales, p. 239. At Llantwit Vawr, "Illtyd founded seven Churches, appointed seven companies for each Church, and seven halls or colleges in each company, and seven Saints in each Hall or College." Bangor Iscoed or Bangor on Dee is the example nearest home, *e.g.*, Bede, H. E. ii. 2.

‡ The Bishop of Bristol. The Christian Church in these Islands before the coming of Augustine, pp. 112-113.

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Three roads entered Staffordshire from Chesterton. One struck east to Wolstanton over the Marsh, probably went down to May Bank, and passing Stoke Church went through Draycott to Tean. Mr. Lynam came across a portion of the cobble pavement of this road near the Monument at Stoke, and some years ago, when the Wolstanton Marsh was being drained, one of the workmen told me he had struck upon a cobble pavement similar as he said to that of a yard. There is little doubt that they were both fragments of the paving of the old Roman Road from Chester through Chesterton to Derby and Leicester. The three oldest Churches on this road in all probability go back in their origin and site to Celtic times. The double manor of Stoke * and the dedication to St. Peter ad Vincula, August 1st, a red letter day in Celtic Heathendom, and the dedication of both Wolstanton and Draycott to S. Margaret, with the preservation of the Dragon legend at Draycott, all point back to traditions of the early supplanting of Celtic pagan cults by Celtic Christendom."

The Saxons, who built most of their Churches of stone, were very much more business-like than the earler Celtic ones of "Wattle and Plaster"

* In 1291 in St. Asaph, it was the exception for the Churches to be held by one man. It was a survival of the old Celtic clan right, Willis Bund, p. 284.

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which easily decayed or were destroyed by marauders, but even very few Saxon Churches remain to us for they were mostly rebuilt by the Normans, or rebuilt at a later date, but of course there are some portions of buildings to-day, which are genuine Saxon in origin.

St. Chad was the first Bishop to set up his "Chair" at Lichfield, about 669. He was appointed by Archbishop Theodore, of Canterbury, famous for having been the first to subdivide England into Dioceses.

Later on, after the Norman Conquest, the Barons were encouraged to appoint Christian Priests in their holdings (Estates) to minister to them and their dependents in religion, and to also increase the number of Churches already in the land. The priests were maintained by endowments of land or money, and so in course of time our present system of ecclesiastical parishes came into being. The Conqueror disposed of the Saxon holdings to his own favourites, and divided the Estates into lesser portions to be held by others on certain conditions, and so established a land tenure much as at the present day. The lesser divisions of the Baronies were called Manors.

Wolstan and Wolstanton.

Wolstanton Church is said to have owed its

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origin to some worthy Saxon of the name of Wolstan (who gave his name to the village), a name borne by several eminent ecclesiastics prior to the Norman Conquest; one of whom was in 1002 Bishop of Worcester. He is said to have been a native of this parish and a descendant of the Patriarch who gave his name to the village.

Algar, Earl of Mercia, Son of Leofric and the Lady Godiva—owned Wlstanetone (Wolstanton) early in the 11th century.

St. Wolstan of a later generation, understood to be of the same family as the Wolstans already named, was raised to the dignity of Prior of Worcester Abbey, and by King Edward the Confessor in 1062, made Bishop of that See. He was one of the few Saxon Ecclesiastics who assisted at the coronation of William the Conqueror in 1066, and founded the present Cathedral of Worcester in 1084, the earlier Church having been destroyed by Hardicanute the Dane. Wolstan was well known for his spiritual discipline, and by his powerful preaching persuaded the citizens of Bristol to forsake their iniquitous traffic in slaves. He is said to have been "deficient in the polemic and secular learning of the foreign ecclesiastics brought into England by William" and in a Synod held at Westminster in 1074, sentence of deposition was passed against him by Lanfranc

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Archbishop of Canterbury. He refused however to surrender his pastoral staff and ring except at the shrine of the sovereign who had bestowed them upon him, and there he laid them down. The story is well known that the Archbishop sent for the staff from the tomb, but the messenger found it so closely adhering to the stone that it could not be removed, neither could the King, nor the Archbishop remove it. Wolstan was sent for, and the staff yielding to his touch, he was allowed to retain his Bishopric.—So runs the legend.

Wolstan was the favourite Saint of King John, in whose reign he was Canonized. That King gave instructions to have his own body interred by the side of the Bishop in Worcester Cathedral.

The family of Wolstan originally dwelt at Dimsdale, about half a mile from the Church.

After the Conquest, Wolstanton was given to the Earl of Chester, from whom it came to Ferrers, Earl of Derby, whose lands being forfeited by his rebellion, the Manor was (inter alia) given out of the Crown by Edward I. to Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, his brother, and was assigned to his second wife Blanche (daughter to Robert, Earl of Artois, third son to Louis VIII. King of France and widow of Henry, King of Navarre) in part of her dower, in which family it continued,* till with the

*From Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, and his wife Blanche, it descended to their eldest son Thomas (the 2nd Earl), he

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Duchy of Lancaster it was united to the Crown. *(From Collections for the History of Pyrehill Hundred and other places in the County of Stafford by Walter Chetwynd of Ingestre, Esquire, 1679. Salt Library, Stafford.)*

As already stated, at the time of the Domesday survey the church belonged to the Crown; the population at this time must have been small, and as there was a Church within two miles (Stoke-upon-Trent) the district must have been considered extremely fortunate in that respect There was a resident Priest at Wolstanton in 1086, but King John in 1200, granted the perpetual *Vicarage* of the Church of Wolstanton to his chaplain, Vivian of Stoke-upon-Trent.

In 1266 the Living of the Church was included in a grant of the Manor and Castle of Newcastle, but Newcastle-under-Lyme (of earlier origin than Newcastle-upon-Tyne) at the time of Domesday was surveyed under the King's Manor of Wlstanetone.* Newcastle-under-Lyme being founded

died (beheaded) 1322, siesed of the Rectory of Wolstanton, (Inquisition taken 1327). Soon afterwards the estates came to his brother Henry (the 3rd Earl), who died 1345, when the estates in turn descended to his son Henry, the 1st Duke of Lancaster, who left no son, but one of his daughters married John of Gaunt, the great Duke of Lancaster.

* Hanley, Fenton, and Longton in the ancient parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, unnamed in Domesday, were probably also members of the King's Manor of Wolstanton. *Eyton's Domesday Studies.*

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seventy years after Domesday. It is interesting to note that the Dukes of Newcastle take their title from Newcastle-under-Lyme. In the taxation of Pope Nicholas the Fourth, A.D. 1291, the Church of Wolstanton with its Chapel† was valued at forty marks, or £26. 13s. 4d. yearly. In 1293, (Stafford assize Roll) it was called a Chapelry of Stoke, but generally a Rectory up to the time of the Reformation. It was some little time after the splitting up of the Church lands by Henry VIII., that we find the living granted to the Sneyd family, of Bradwell, Sneyd, &c.

In the time of Edward I., the name of the village is Wulstanestone and Wolstanestown, and in the days of Elizabeth we find it sometimes spelt Wolseton or Wolsyton, but in Domesday it was Wlstanetone.

The surname of Wooliscroft (Wolstan's croft) is taken directly from the locality. It is a name somewhat rare outside the district.

King Edward the sixth (1547) granted to Richard Sampson, the Rectory of Wolstanton, thus says *Shaw* in his History of the County of Stafford, but he must have held it for a very short time as the Sneyds are found in possession soon after that date.

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† Understood to be Keele, *Ward*, p. 111.

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WOLSTANTON CHURCH.

1857, or as it appeared from 1623 to 1859, with the exception of the East End which was rebuilt in 1857.

From a drawing at the Salt Library, Stafford.

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Wolstanton Church was built at least two hundred years prior to the foundation of Hulton Abbey in 1223,* and part of the road from Wolstanton to Hulton can still be traced. To follow the road as it originally was, walk down Wedgwood Street and the lane beyond, close by Foulea † Brook, across what is now called Waterloo Road, through Sneyd Green and Holden Lane, (part of which is now called Milton Road) keep to the north side of Bircheshead Manor—which is now a farm-house—and then when the railway between Bucknall and Milton stations is reached, there is a gate where the line can be crossed some two hundred yards from which is the site of the once beautiful Abbey of Hulton. This road like so many others throughout the country, was in all probability made by the Abbey Monks. The Hulton Monks were also great Potters, one of their special productions being encaustic tiles for their own use, as well as for other ecclesiastical buildings.

At the time of the demolition of the monasteries the Pottery at Hulton was taken over by the

* Hulton Abbey was founded by Henry de Audley.

† The name may be traceable like most river names to the Celtic river root "bial," "bual"=water. *Rev. Thos. Barns.* In the 16th century it was sometimes spelt Fowle Ley, *vide* Will of Nicolas Adams of Burslem, proved Lichfield, May 18, 1568, wherein he left moneys for the mending of the Bridge at Fowle Ley, going from Shelton to Penkhyll. Nicolas Adams was buried within Burslem Parish Church in November, 1567.

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Adams family (whose younger sons had long been producers of Pottery) and worked by them for several generations, until their larger potteries were built at Burslem, Stoke-upon-Trent, and Tunstall. The present family are their direct descendants.

At this date we have little doubt that the whole of the Church would be entirely Saxon in structure, for it seems that it was not till 1623 that any considerable alterations were made.

That Earthenware was made in the Parish of Wolstanton from the very earliest times there is very little doubt, especially in the vicinity of Chesterton and Tunstall, and it is highly probable that it was made in some form prior to the Roman Invasion. Unfortunately but few historical records are extant to tell us much about it until the days of Dr. Plot's writings in 1686, when pottery was fairly well established in the district, but we have specimens of early pottery which have been found in the locality, and we also have private papers and wills, which sometimes describe members of important yeoman families as Master Potters.* Chesterton which was a Roman

* *Vide* Will of William Adams, Master Potter, Burslem, proved Lichfield, March 30th, 1617, and of Thos. Wedgwood, proved Lichfield, April 4th, 1679—the first named is, we believe, the earliest English Master Potter yet identified. Some of the old family of Colclough (of whom Sir Thomas Colclough, was a member) were also Master Potters in the same century at Burslem, they inter-married with the Sneyd's of Bradwell, the Burslem's of Burslem, the Wedgwood's, and the Adams family.

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Camp, and probably earlier had been a British one, was also a mining village in very early days.

Dr. Plot tells us that Mr. Wm. Sneyd had a forge at Knutton Heath, the hot iron being beaten into plates by means of a hammer weighing five cwts. These plates were disposed of to a frying-pan Manufactory at Newcastle-under-Lyme, one of the only two such factories existing at that time in the Kingdom, the other being situated in Surrey.

Probably the ironstone which Mr. Sneyd used "cropped out" on part of his land, there would be thus little difficulty in obtaining it. In the same way, the Master Potters of the 17th century and earlier got the bulk of their coal, possibly, however, Wm. Sneyd may have sunk shafts of some fifty to sixty feet deep in a similar manner to the pre-Roman period. Very crude workings have been discovered in the Adams property at Newfield (Tunstall) and several of the old picks which were then used have been discovered, one of which is in the Tunstall Museum. The iron ore at Tunstall is said to have been the best in the North Staffordshire Basin.

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CHAPTER II.

DEDICATION.

THE Parish Church of Wolstanton in the County of Stafford is supposed by some to have been dedicated to S. Nicholas, but it has been for several hundred years known as S. Margaret's and it more probably was always so.

Wolstanton Wake is the nearest Sunday to July 20th (S. Margaret's Day) and is generally considered as a holiday season (this is especially so with Stoke Wakes*) but *The Wake* is in reality the date for celebrating the Patronal Feast day of the Church.

* *Stoke Wakes, Dedication to St. Peter ad Vincula, August 1st.* This corresponds with the Lugnassad fair of Ireland, which was associated with Lug, the Sun hero, and according to tradition was established by Lug in honour of his foster-mother, Tailtiu, (Rhys, Hibbert Lectures p.p. 409. 519.). It is the counterpart of the Greek Panathenaia. The Fair lasted from a fortnight before Lammas (August 1st.) to a fortnight after. These limits are represented in our Calendar by the festivals of St. Margaret of Antioch and St Lawrence. It is now recognised that many of the festivals of the early Church were established to supersede the festivals of Heathendom. Stoke Wakes therefore represents an ancient Celtic Festival associated with the Sun God Lug or Lleu. His cult was commemorated with the name Dinlle Ureconn, the Dinlle or Town of Lleu on the Wrekin. If St. Peter has supplanted Lleu, is there not reason to think that St. Margaret has supplanted the goddess Tailtiu. She appears nearer home as the Lady of the Little Van Lake near Brecon. She was a goddess of the dawn, and on the occasion of the Welsh holiday she occupied the position assigned to Tailtiu in the Lugnassad and to

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It will no doubt interest our readers to know something of S. Margaret. According to the ancient Martyrologies she suffered at Antioch in Pisidia in the last general persecution. She is said to have been instructed in the faith by a Christian Nurse, to have been prosecuted by her own father, a priest of the idols ; and after many torments to have gloriously finished her Martyrdom by the sword. Her name occurs in the Litany in the old Roman order, and in the most ancient calendars of the Greeks. From the East her veneration was exceedingly propagated in England, France and Germany in the eleventh century during the holy wars. Her body is now kept at Monte Fiascone in Tuscany. Vida, the glory of the Christian Muses, had honoured S. Margaret who is one of the titular Saints of Cremona (his native city) with two hymns begging of God through her prayers, not long life, riches or honours, but the grace of a happy death

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Athene in the Panethenaia. On August 1st, Welsh pilgrims used to visit this little Lake in the Brecons, in the hope of seeing the Lady of the Lake make her momentary appearance in the early dawn. There is still a relic of the same tradition in the Moorlands connected with Mermaid Pool or Blake Meer above Thorncliffe, near Leek. She has been identified with Modron, the mother of Mabon, the Celtic Apollo. It is scarcely an accident that two of the oldest Churches in this district, Wolstanton and Draycott, are dedicated to St. Margaret. The Dragon legend is still alive at Draycott and the spot is yet shown where the last dragon was slain. The dragon would symbolize the power of darkness overcome by the goddess of the dawn.—*Rev. Thos. Barns.*

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and a holy life, that he might be admitted, with a devout and pious heart, to praise God in the choir of his holy servants.—See his hymns, and Pirius the Bolandist July ; t.5, p.28.

In devotional pictures S. Margaret is represented as trampling on a dragon, and holding up a cross, but in some pictures she has a garland of pearls round her head in allusion to her name Marguerita or Pearl.

S. Nicholas, to whom the Church is said by some to be dedicated (possibly in its earlier days) is one of the most popular Saints. This is especially the case in seaport towns from the following event in his life ; he is said to have embarked on board a ship bound for the Holy Land ; during the voyage there was a terrible storm and one of the sailors fell overboard, but by the prayers of S. Nicholas he was restored to life. He was chosen to be the Patron Saint of Sailors. Sometimes he is represented as holding three golden balls in his hand or with them lying at his feet. These golden balls are at the present day the sign of a pawnbroker, formerly they were of the arms of the Florentine family, the Medici, who took S. Nicholas for their Patron Saint, and who by a successful career of merchandise and money-lending raised themselves to supreme power in Florence. In order to testify their gratitude to the patron of merchants, as they held

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him to be, they took the symbol of S. Nicholas for their Arms. The Florentines were the first moneylenders in Europe, and they settled in England at an early date and hung out the sign of their great chief, the three golden balls. Lombardy, their native land, gave its name to their headquarters in London, Lombard Street, and there is no doubt that is why the Church of S. Nicholas was built there. There are many stories concerning S. Nicholas, how he brought to life three children who had been murdered, and saved from an infamous life the three daughters of an impoverished nobleman by giving them each sufficient gold for marriage portions. Hence the three golden balls which represent three purses of gold.

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Chapter III.

THE CHURCH YARD.

THE lofty steeple of Wolstanton besides being the most interesting of its kind in the district is very graceful, and is a landmark to all the surrounding neighbourhood for miles round, and it is well to remember that the lower part of the tower is certainly 13th century, and according to some authorities earlier.

The Churchyard* commands from its very elevated situation a complete and interesting view of the north part of the Potteries, and upon a clear day the hills surrounding Leek, towards Buxton, are clearly visible. On the south side of the Churchyard can be seen the woods of Keele, Trentham, and Swinnerton. The whole of Wolstanton Parish extending in its northern borders into Cheshire (adjoining Astbury Parish) was exceptionally beautiful, being so hilly and well wooded, parts of which are fortunately still left to us.

Returning to the Churchyard, many of the old gravestones through changes and alterations have

* Enlarged in 1806.

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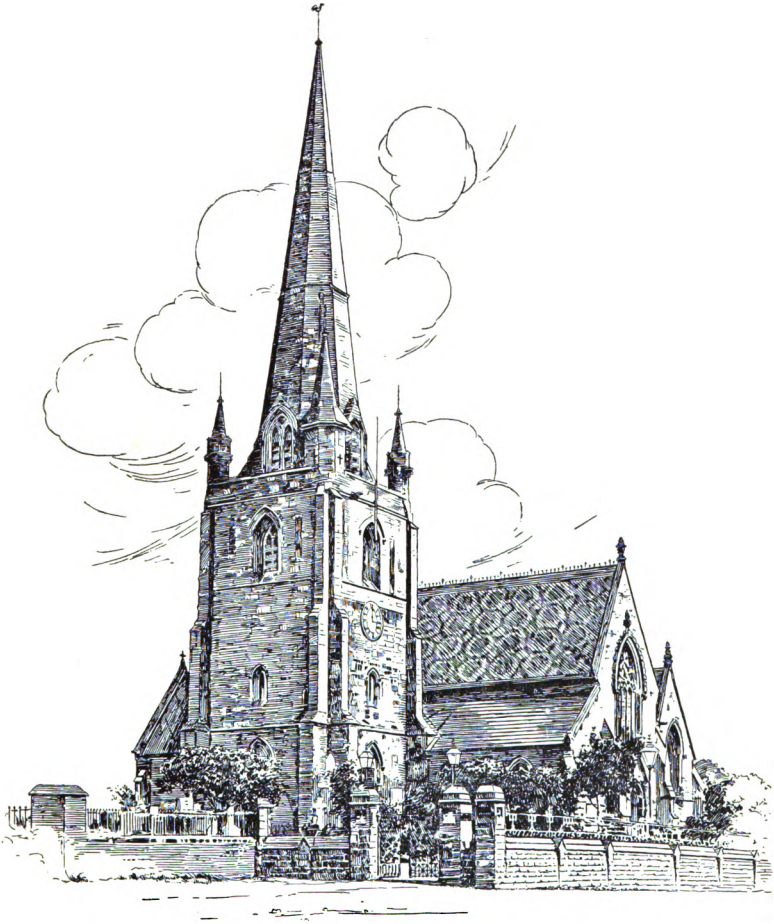

WOLSTANTON CHURCH,
at Present day.

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been destroyed and defaced. One stone states :—

"Heare lyeth the body of Randull Bristall,
"Broad Glasse Maker, who died the second of
"April in the year of our Lord God 1668"

and upon the same stone

"Heare lyeth the body of Ann Bristall, wife of
"Randull Bristall, who deceased February the
"21st day Ano Dom 1703."

This stone is interesting as it would appear that glass making was carried on in this district at that time.

Another stone reads as follows :—

"Here lieth the body of Sarah Smith daughter
"of Samuel and Martha Smith of Bradwell
"Park who departed this life Nov : 29, 1763,
"in the 21st year of her age—

"It was G-SB-W,
"That brought me to my end
"Dear Parents mourn not for me.
"For God will stand my friend.
"With half a Pint of Poyson
"He came to visit me.
"Write this on my grave
"That all that read it may see."

This is one of the few direct accusations of murder to be found inscribed on a Tombstone.

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Admiral Child* (who died 1813) of Newfield, Tunstall, is buried in the Churchyard, the railings of the tomb abut on the north wall of the nave. In the Churchyard are also buried members of the Stanier family. John Boyle (formerly partner with Herbert Minton of Stoke, and later with the second Josiah Wedgwood, of Etruria); Edward Adams of Basford Hall; Edward Wood of Porthill and Newbold Revel, Co. Warwick; William Adams of Greenfield; Rev. J. T. Jeffcock; Bennetts of Dimsdale and High Car; Eatons, Rheads, and Mayers of Knutton; Ledwards; Bristols; Eardleys of Chesterton, and members of other well-known families.

Wolstanton Churchyard used to be famous in Earthenware memorials. These "Stones" were manufactured by the Potters up to as late as 1760 or thereabouts, and the names and epitaphs

*Jan. 21. At Newfield, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, of gout in the stomach, aged 83. Smith Child, Esq., Admiral of the Blue. He was brought into the service in 1747, under Earl Gower's auspices, by the circumnavigator Lord Anson, of whom he was the nautical disciple; and served at the sieges of Louisbourg and Pondicherry. He commanded the Europe at the repulse of the French fleet off the Chesapeak, in 1781, being second in the line of battle there; and obtained the thanks of the commander-in-chief, and the promotion of many of that ship's officers for her conduct in the action. In 1795 he commanded the Commerce de Marseilles, of 120 guns; and attained his Flag on the 14th Feb., 1799. The Admiral was, during great part of his life, in the Commission of the Peace for Staffordshire, a Deputy Lieutenant, &c. of that county; and was most justly and extensively beloved and revered.—"Staffordshire Advertiser" 1813.

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THE TOLL-GATE AT BROWNHILLS.

(On the road from Wolstanton to Tunstall).

From a photograph by Mr. Leese.

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of the deceased persons were painted in raised "slip," but we are afraid there are none now remaining, the best having mysteriously disappeared and found their way to Liverpool Museum, with the exception of one to the memory of Samuell Willshaw, who died in 1755. It is in good preservation. The letters which are white are let into the light-brown glazed body after the manner of the old inlaid tilework.

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Chapter IV.

THE STORY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH.

THE nave of the Church was rebuilt by subscription in the year 1859,* and stands upon the site of a Church which was originally built in Saxon times, but probably partially destroyed at the time of the Danish Invasion for the Danes were heathen. The Chancel was rebuilt at the entire expense of the Sneyd family, a year or so prior to the rebuilding of the nave in 1859. *Ward*, in his History of the Borough of Stoke-upon-Trent, describes the Church as it was in about 1840. He says: "the nave appears to "belong to an early period, as well as portions "of the side aisles, and the red sandstone of "which they are constructed is much decayed "by the corroding hand of time. These parts "of the sacred edifice may have been of Saxon "formation, but the upper parts of the body of "the church and the battlements are probably "of the date of 1623, when the present roof "appears to have been constructed according

*The total cost of the Restoration of the nave was £2659 : 0 : 9 defrayed by subscriptions and Church collections.

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"to a superscription on the wall plate* of the "South aisle as follows:—

""Sir Thomas Colloclough, Knight 1623, "John Brett, Esquier, Ralph Bourne, John "Macclesfield, John Woode, Churchwardens, "Anno Domini 1623." The Steeple, which is a "tower seventy-eight feet high, surmounted by "a spire rising sixty-five feet higher, stands on "the North side and not as usual on the West "side."

From the Diocesan Calendar of 1858 we have the following concerning Wolstanton Church:—

This Church, which is the only old one of any account remaining in the Pottery district, and which had become so dilapidated as to have become unsafe to remain standing any longer, is now being restored under the direction of Messrs. Ward and Son, architects, of Hanley, on the old foundations, regard being had to restoring the principal features faithfully as they were. The massive old steeple, so prominent and picturesque an object from all the surrounding country, will remain unaltered, except that the top of the spire will be carried up to its original taper finish, the modern parapet removed, and the base of the spire finished with pinnacles at three of the angles, and

* According to the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1811, this inscription is upon a beam which supported the rafters of the South aisle.

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the staircase turret carried up as a spirelet, at the fourth—the windows being all filled in with tracery. The exterior of the Church, which was very plain and devoid of architectural character (except the picturesqueness resulting from the greyness of age), and most of which was of a "debased" character, with lead roofs of the date of 1627, is to be restored to its original condition of high pitched roof and windows with tracery of "decoratal" character. The interior, consisting of massive pillars and excellently-moulded arches of early character, being of the beginning of the 13th century, with chancel and tower arches, are to have the plaster removed and the stone work re-dressed, the tower arch is to be opened and the steeple thrown to the Church. The Church is to be re-pewed with proper pews, having carved poppy heads next the aisles. The aisles are to be paved with Minton encaustic tiles, and some of the windows filled with stained glass. The restorations are being done in the best of the red stone from Alton, in order to be in keeping with the former character of the Church, and with the steeple which will remain, and which had been built of the friable red sandstone of the district. The modern excrescences, in the shape of the vestry and room over, on the eastern side of the steeple, are to be entirely removed, and a new vestry built at the end of the north aisle. Some

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portion of the old encaustic tiles have been found in digging the foundations for the parts to be rebuilt, and many skeletons, which must be several centuries old. Otherwise no relics or corner-stone or inscription have been brought to light. There were the remains of an altar at the end of the south aisle, which, as in many old Churches, is much larger than the north, and a curious recess in the western wall of the nave, probably for a tomb. The whole of the interior of the Church had been originally of cleaned stone. The chancel, which was originally of the same early date as the internal portions of the Church, with lancet windows and good sedilia of three seats and piscina, with a priest door and hagioscope attached and which belong to the lay Rector, Ralph Sneyd, Esquire, of Keele Hall, has been rebuilt at his expense in a plain, substantial manner, under the direction of Mr. Salvin, architect, of London, in the decoratal style. The windows are to be filled in with stained glass and the floor paved with Minton encaustic tiles. There is also in the chancel a fine monument of the 16th century belonging to the Sneyd family, which is to be restored and replaced.

. . . . . .

Lines addressed to the Parish Church of Wolstanton on its demolition previous to being rebuilt, August, 1858.—C.T.

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Ah! rude decay, that will not spare
Thy sacred walls, thy courts so fair,
Church of our fathers! House of God!
Where angels' feet may oft have trod.

Hallow'd thy shade in every part:
The sigh from many a broken heart,
The note of praise, the breath of prayer,
Alike have met and mingled there.

How sad and solemn strikes the sound
That bids to raze thee to the ground!
Thou who hast been our eyes' delight,
About to vanish from our sight.

Soon, on the site so long endear'd
Another fabric will be rear'd;
And may its rites by God be blest
When we ourselves have sunk to rest.

As o'er a dying parent's head,
Our tears resistless will be shed;
E'en tho' we hope that form to trace
When saints arise in richer grace.

So, Mother, dear! o'er thy decay
Our dutious tribute we should pay:
And from thy dust we trust may spring
A nobler temple to our King.

We only ask, in God's great day,
When heaven and earth shall pass away,
Thy stones for us may witness bear
To holy Sabbaths spent in prayer.

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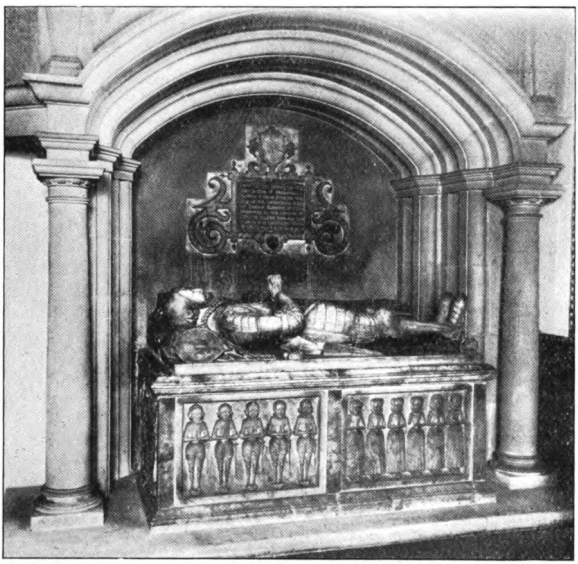

ALTAR TOMB OF SIR WILLIAM SNEYD OF BRADWELL,
AND DAME ANNE, HIS WIFE,
in the Chancel of Wolstanton Church.
(16th century).

From a photograph by Cecily Adams.

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As the steeple has been but little altered, *Ward's* descriptions and our illustration will no doubt suffice. At the time of the Reformation the church was entirely Saxon in structure. The present nave is of red sandstone in the decorated style of architecture. Within the Church upon the west wall there is a brass tablet with the following inscription engraved thereon :—This Parish church of St. Margaret founded by Bishop Wolstan in the eleventh century, and partially restored MDCXXIII, was rebuilt by voluntary contributions in MDCCCLX, and the 23rd year of Queen Victoria.

Ralph Sneyd, Patron,
John Tyson, Vicar,
George Baker, } Churchwardens.
Wm. Hyatt, }

The chancel is unusually large for the size of the church. It is of Hollington stone.

The interior is very beautiful and contains many interesting mural monuments and tablets, some with Georgian bust portraits of the Sneyd family ; but there is notably an altar tomb of alabaster (16th century) with recumbent effigies of Sir William Sneyd of Bradwell, and his lady, Dame Anne, one of the daughters and heirs of Thomas Barrowe, of Fluckersbrook, in the County of Chester. The figure of the knight is in plate armour with the head resting on a helmet.

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Their fifteen children are figured in panels on the front and sides. At the head are two shields of arms and on the wall above it a brass tablet.

There used to be a curious story regarding Dame Anne. It will be observed that her effigy is mutilated, the hands being broken off. The tradition is that the lady was very proud and haughty, and that one instance of this was that she refused to dress herself even to the small act of sticking a pin into her apparel, but must have everything done for her and be waited upon in every particular. Sir William determined to punish her for her scornful conduct, and in visiting her room one day he found her maids in the act of dressing her, he therefore gave her the choice of either dressing herself or submit to have her hands cut off. She is said to have preferred the latter. A more probable tradition is that the Commonwealth soldiers mutilated the effigy.* Other mural tablets are to the memory of the families of Yonge of Caynton, Salop, and Charnes; the Moreton's of Wolstanton Hall (Wolstanton Hall is now called Moreton House); Adams of Greenfield, near Tunstall, &c., in Wolstanton parish; the Bennetts, of Dimsdale; Rev.

* *Ward* gives an interesting pedigree of the Sneyd family, shewing their descent through various families from King Edward III. and Queen Phillipa. They also descend from the famous Audleys, Lords of Heley Castle.

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John Tyson ; Jane, wife of William Robinson, of Wolstanton ; and William Hyatt, of Highfields.

But from the "Gentleman's Magazine" of April 1811, page 323, we have a description of other mural tablets, not now in the Church, and which we presume must have been too dilapidated to put up again at the time of the 1859 restoration: viz. :—

"On a plain tomb at the West end of the "North aisle, near the entrance door in capitals. "Here lyeth the bodies of John Cowell, some-"time of this parish, Yeoman ; and Christabell "his wife ; which sayd John left land, being "inheritance, to nine severall persons. Allso "hee hath given to the free Schoole of New-"castle one hundred pounds. Allso hee hath "given to the Poore of Nutton and Chester-"ton, thirtie and two shillings a yeare for "ever. Allso hee hath given to the Towne of "Newcastle aforesaid Tenn pounds to put poore "children to 'prentice ; and to the South side "of Woolstanton parish twentie pounds to put "poore children to 'prentice : Which sayd "John and Christabell departed this life, the "13th day of Aprill, in the year of our Lord "God, 1659.

"Death is the end of all flesh ;
"The liveing should lay it to hart."

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"Upon entering the Chancel, on the North "wall is an hatchment, in memory of *Ralph* "*Sneyd*, esq; who died Dec. 11, at Bath, in "Somersetshire; and was buried in the family "vault in this Church, Dec. 19, 1793, aged 70 "years. His wife *Barbara* died Feb. 23, 1797, "aged 71 years, and was buried in the same "vault."

"The arms are: Argent, a fleur de lis Sable, "and a scythe, in pale, of the same *(Sneyd)*; "impaling, Ermine, two chevrons Azure *(Bagot)* "The crest is a Lion passant guardant Sable."

Then follows a description of the other Sneyd Monuments which we have already described—but we learn from the same source that the inscription engraved upon the monument on the South wall of the Chancel, (we refer to the one which is not within the altar rails) was written by the poet Dryden, with whom the Sneyds were connected by marriage. This valuable Magazine referring to the Monument within the Altar rail also tells us that beneath it were three stone seats and a piscina, and:—

"In the chancel near or under Mr. Sneyd's "hatchment, is an old oaken chest with these "initials and date—F. C., I. T., M. B., 1636., "R. C., W. D., R. H., * In the years 1803 and

* The Oak chest is now in the Vestry, but the three stone seats, the piscina, and hatchment are unfortunately no more.

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"1804 this Church underwent considerable
"repairs; the seats which were old and in bad
"condition, were taken down and rebuilt, with
"the addition of boarded floors and new oak
"fronts. It is now well pewed. The aisles
"were then laid with new quarry bricks, and
"the walls white-washed, &c. The expenses of
"which repairs was about £230. . . . . .
"on the beam which supports the rafters of the
"South aisle, extending the whole length in
"one line, in capitals is:—

"Sir : Thomas : Colloclogh : knight : 1623 :
"John : Brett : Esquire : Raphe : Bourne :
"John : Maclesfeelde : John : Woode : Church-
"wardens : Anno : Domini : 1623.

In the 16th century the Church furniture does not seem to have been very extensive. It consisted of two sacring bells, two copes, or priest's robes, a Chalice of Silver with a paten, one censer of Brass, two vestments and two albs, which were long surplices reaching to the feet. There was one suit of single vestments, one towel, and one vessel for holding wine or water. Two altar cloths, one pax of glass, which was a figure of our Saviour, carried about the Church for the people to kiss, and one pyx, which was a kind of box in which the consecrated wafer was kept.

These goods were to be delivered to the churchwardens Edward Unwin and Roger Turner, and

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by them transferred to the Commissioner of Edward VI.

In those days the churchwardens had other duties to perform besides their church duties such as keeping the village in order, and placing offending people in the "stocks." The *Pound* (the enclosure wherein strayed animals were confined until owned, and their poundage or fine paid for) is half way down Wall Lane (otherwise Knutton Road), almost on the site of the old Wolstanton Stocks.

It will no doubt interest some of our readers to know who occupied pews in the 16th century. We, therefore, copy out from an old book in our own possession a list of owners in 1583.

The ould Seates as ye weare, Anno Dom. 1583.

The North side of ye Church.	The South side of ye Church.
1. Mrs. Cocklugh William Bourne of Chell Richard Cocklugh	1. Ralph Sneyd Esq
2. Richard Knight Mrs. Lawton for Booth's house Thomas Burne of Cocklugh lane house Robert Baggenold	2. Mr. Brett John Baddiley of Houlditch
	3. Richard Knight 2 seats Richard Burne of Wall end

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3.
Alexander Miles
Robert Parker
Richard Cocklugh
William Burslem of
Broan Leyes

4.
Richard Burne of
field house
William Prince
Richard Podmore
William Drakford
Mr. Colmers Land
White hill house

5.
John Chalton
Thomas Burne
of Dimsdale
John Landers
Richard Meare
John Baddeley's house
of Tunstall

6.
John Rowley for two
seats ye last and
worst
Geffry Rowley
at Wedgewood
Thomas Burslem
William Burslem
owltote
William Sneyd for
Moretons house

4.
John Baddely for
Bruchowes
John Wood
Richard Drayford
Thomas Bullocke
William Burne
of Bankhouse

5.
Ralph Slade
James Rowley
of Rainscliffe
Hugh Morton
of Wolstanton
Geffry Rowley
of Rainscliffe

6.
Mr. Smiths tennants

7.
Robert Wood
James Cocklugh
of Heylyes
John Dakin lately
dedland ?
Shawes houses

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7.
Anthoney Boothe
Thomas Shawe
Richard Burne
James Tunstalle
Thomas Shawe one
Seate for his own
house

Note.—In 1624 many of the same names occur as holding the same seats.

When Edward Vernon became Vicar in 1697, we find the following quaint entry with the registers :—

"Wee, the Churchwardens for the present "year 1697, for the parish of Wolstanton, "knowing the Vicar to be destitute of a seate "in the Church for his servants wee, therefore, "appropriate that pew lately made out of ye "passage into ye Belfry by John Talbot, and "usurped by him as his own without any con-"sent of ye Vicar and Churchwardens, to the "use of ye Vicar for his servants to sit in "during divine service."

As however we see that John Talbot had lately died we must not think this too arbitrary especially as Mr. Talbot, as regards the pew, does not seem to have known what was his own.

All the present windows in the Church are of comparatively modern stained glass. Some beautiful ones have lately been added upon the south wall of the nave by the Bennett family,

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they are executed by Burlison and Grill, another equally beautiful, is to the memory of Charles Challinor, * of Basford Hall, has been erected by his family and executed by Heaton, Butler, and Bayne, there are also two to the memory of the first wife and a daughter of Edward Wood, Esq., son of Enoch Wood, of Burslem (all of whose descendants have long since left the County); to Francis Stanier, of Silverdale; there is also a window to St. Wolstan; and there are others. When the nave was rebuilt in 1859, Mr. Sneyd especially desired that it should be rebuilt upon exactly the same foundation as the old nave, and much of the old materials were employed. It is unfortunate that the old clerestory windows in the nave were not replaced. Much of the old oak is still in the Church and forms the foundations of the pews. In the olden days it was the fashion for the majority of the gentry to be buried within the Churches and thus we find the Sneyds, Moretons, Adams, Bretts, and others buried therein. Before the alterations of 1859 took place, there was an oaken three-decker pulpit instead of the present stone one, and a gallery at the west end containing four rows of seats. The front row contained four

* Charles Challinor was for many years Churchwarden. He was born 1829, died 1893. He is buried in the Churchyard by the side of his wife, Lettice, third daughter of William Adams, of Greenfield, in this Parish. She was born in 1831, died 1890.

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pews, one for Edward Wood and his family (afterwards of Rugby); the others for Edward Adams, of Basford Hall, and his family; Lewis Adams and sisters, of The Watlands; and Thomas Hyatt, of Highfields; behind was the square pew belonging to the Sneyds, of Bradwell, the last Sneyd who sat there being Mr. William Sneyd (a captain in the Staffordshire Militia) who died in 1836, in another pew sat Mr. and Mrs. Eardley and others; while below, Miss Mary Moreton sat in her canopied pew near the south aisle, and the Bennetts in their square pew at the side of the present organ, under the mural tablet which commemorates their family. Opposite that pew (the east and south walls forming two parts of a square) a choir of mixed men and maidens (some of uncertain age) sang to the accompaniment of various instruments.

Little could be seen from the gallery except the school children in the chancel, and the parson, who in the service, would not think it a digression to occasionally take a pinch of snuff. At one time there was a very fine screen dividing the Chancel from the nave. No villagers however remember this.

In the Church there are sixteen separate shields of arms to the Sneyd family—the scythe and fleur de lys (the fleur de lys was added to the family

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arms in commemoration of their services at the Battle of Poictiers), each coat impaling the shield of their wife's family.—There is also to be seen in the Church the arms belonging to the families of Moreton, Yonge, Adams, Stanier, and Bennett. In 1897, through the energy of the Rev. H. E. Butler, an oak Chancel screen was erected in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. A clock was placed in the tower to replace the old one in 1889, the cost being defrayed by subscription. There are 8 bells, 6 of which were cast in 1714 for Trentham Church, and which were purchased from that Church in 1767 at 9d. per lb., and the Churchwardens of Wolstanton sold Trentham one large Bell upon the same terms. The eight bells are as follows :—

(1) Abr Rudhall cast us all 1714.
(2) Richard Marlow, William Hall, Ch. W. A. R., 1714.
(3) Jeffrey Williams A M Minister A.R. 1714
(4) George Blaxton R. of Berwick in Elmet 1714
(5) Richard Astbury of this town Blacksmith gave me in 1623 and recast 1714
(6) John Lord Gower—Kath; Lady Dowager Gower, 1714
(7) The gift of the Wolstanton Change Ringing Society, &c., Easter 1884.
(8) Ditto.

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On a board in the Belfry the following lines may be seen :—

If to ring you do come here,
You must ring well with hand and ear ;
And if a bell you overthrow,
Twopence you pay before you go ;
And if you ring with spur or hat,
Fourpence is due take care of that ;
And if you either swear or curse,
Sixpence is due pull out your purse
So if to our rules you do consent
Then take a bell and we're content. 1816.

Miss Mary Moreton, who died in 1842, was the last of the Moreton's, of Moreton House (or rather Wolstanton Hall). She had one brother, and her only sister married Mr. Sparrow, of Newcastle, and Bishton, from whom the bulk of the Moreton properties passed through the Chetwynd family to the Rev. Charles Christopher Ellison, of The Manse, Bracebridge, Lincolnshire, Rector of Boultham in that County. A date on one of the water spouts of Moreton House, is 1743, and the initials R. H. M., but the house is probably much older than that date.

The initials refer to Ralph and Hannah Moreton, Mr. Ralph Moreton having married Hannah, daughter of Thomas Birtles of Leek. They were the parents of Elizabeth Sparrow, Mary Moreton, and a son Ralph, who died unmarried in 1787. Both daughters were over ninety when they died.

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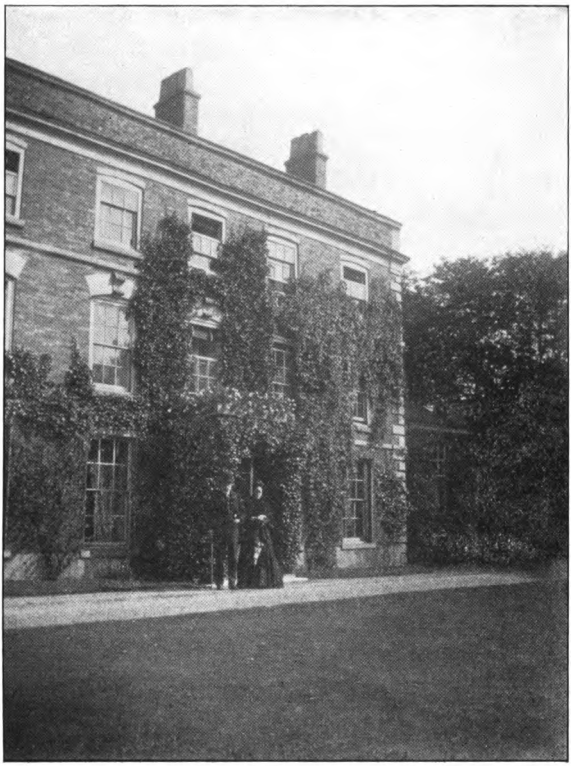

MORETON HOUSE.

Formerly called Wolstanton Hall.

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Chapter V.

VICARS, &c.

ON the south wall of the Parish Church there has recently been erected an interesting wooden tablet giving a list of the Vicars of Wolstanton since 1086. We give a copy of the list as follows:—

Rectors and Vicars of Wolstanton.

1086	A Priest, unknown.
1200	Stephanus de Burgennoey, Rector. John Vivian de Stoke, Vicar.
1254	Henry de Wengham Nicholas de Aldythelegh, (Audley)
1313	John de Brabazon, Rector.
1333	Henry de la Dale.
1344	Richard Hillary.
1360	William de Blaby
1347	Robert de Wilford.
1374	John de Salford
1384	William de Newenham
1509	John Gregge.
1535	John Olyve
1572	Andrew Bowyer
1572	John Sartling.
1588—1618	Henry Stevenson.

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1618—1643	Francis Capps.
1643	Richard Shelley.
1646—1679	Isaac Keling.
1680—1695	Richard Taylor.
1695—1697	Edward Vernon.
1697—1708	William Ford.
1708	Wettenhall Sneyd. William Foden,
1724—1743	John Harding.
1756	Samuel Middleton.
1756—1796	Edward Sneyd.
1796—1803	John Ferneyhough
1803—1807	William Chester.
1807—1812	John Barnett.
1812—1824	Lewis Sneyd
1824—1835	Ralph Bagot.
1835—1837	Walter Sneyd.
1837—1867	John Tyson.
1867—1877	John Thomas Jeffcock.
1877—1893	Otho William Steele.
1893—1900	Herbert Edward Butler.
1900—1906	William Henry Heale
1906	Charles James Winn

The Church and Tithes of Wolstanton were formerly given to the Abbey of Hulton and after the dissolution to the King, but from Queen Elizabeth's time the revenues were held by the Sneyd's until the breaking out of the Civil War in the time of Charles I., when the family, taking

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sides with the Crown, a change came over their destiny for the time being. At that time the Vicar was Richard Shelley, but the adherents of Cromwell by no means approved of a parson selected by Mr. Sneyd, they therefore resolved to put an end at once to the "preaching and the patronage." So in 1643 the Committee at Stafford ordered

"That Mr. Isaac Keling, clerk, should execute "the place of Minister and Vicar of Wolstanton, "and that Richard Shelly, clerk, should avoyde "from the same being put in the same place by "Ralph Sneyd, Esq., who is a delinquent to the "King and Parliament, and therefore had no "authority to dispose of the said place during the "time of his delinquency."—*Harwood's Erdeswick.*

It is well known that Cromwell who has been called "that unpious and rebell appointed out of the basest hypocrites and dissemblers with God and man" changed the marriage ceremony from a religious rite to a civil contract, and forbade the Clergy to solemnize marriages, but to be contracted before a magistrate. The banns to be published on three successive market days in the nearest market town; or on three Sundays in the Parish Church. A small separate book remains amongst the registers (which date from the year 1628) and as the preservation of such

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entries are somewhat rare, we quote two of the entries as follows :—

" Mr. John Milward, sonne of the Worshipfull
" John Milward of Snitterton in the countie of
" Darbie, Esq. and Mrs. Jane Sneyd, daughter
" of the Worshipfull Mrs. Jane Sneyd of Brad-
" wall, within the Countie of Stafford,
" widdowe, weare published three several
" Lords dayes in the Parrish Church of Wol-
" stanton in the Countie of Stafford ; and like-
" waise in the Parish Church of Darley, in the
" Countie of Darbie aforesaid ; viz : the 21st,
" and the 28th dayes of December, and the 4th
" day of Januarie 1656 ; according to an Act of
" Parliament in that case made and provided ;
" (and noe exception made by any p'sɒn) as by
" the certificates under the hands of the Reg-
" esters of Wolstanton and Darley, was made
" playnly to appear unto me ; and the said
" Mr. John Milward and Mrs. Jane Sneyd weare
" married the 27th day of Januarie 1656, before
" me Edward Brett Esquire, one of the Justices
" of the Peace, for the Countie of Stafford ;
" witness my hand the day and yeare last
" above written, Edward Brett."

Again :

" Richard Marsh sonne of Thomas Marsh,
" late of Woolstanton deceased, and Ann
" Rowley, daughter of William Rowley, of

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"Broadfield, weare published three severall "Markett dayes at the Market Crosse in New-"castle-under-Lyme; viz: the first, the 8th, "and the 15th dayes of December 1656 (and noe "exception made by any person). And the "said Richard Marsh and Ann Rowley weare "married the 23rd day of December 1656, before "Edward Eardley, Esquire, one of the Justices "of the Peace for the Countie of Stafford."

Wolstanton has doubtless had its share of parish clerks with their quaint ways and customs, a race which is gradually becoming extinct. Samuel Oakes was the last of the old School at Wolstanton, he died in 1889, one of the quaint things he did we take from Bishop Walsham How's "*Lighter Moments*"—

"At Wolstanton in the Potteries there was a "somewhat fussy verger named Oakes. On "one occasion just at the time of the year "when it was doubtful whether lights would "be wanted or no, and when they had not yet "been lighted for evening service, a stranger "who was a very smart young clergyman was "reading the lessons and had some difficulty "in seeing. He had on a pair of delicate "lavender kid gloves. The verger, perceiving "his difficulty, went to the vestry, got two "candles, lighted them, and walked to the "lectern, before which he stood solemnly hold-

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"ing the candles (without candlesticks) in his
"hands. This was sufficiently trying to the
"congregation, but suddenly someone rattled
"the latch of the west door, when Oakes, feel-
"ing that it was absolutely necessary to go and
"see what was the matter, thrust the two
"candles in the poor young clergyman's deli-
"cately gloved hands, and left him."

The foregoing also appears in the "*The Parish Clerk*," by P. H. Ditchfield, M.A., F.S.A. The same personage was often heard to allude to the clerical staff of the parish as Me, and the Vicar, and the two young men—(the "young men" being the curates!).

Wolstanton was a Rectory up to the time of Elizabeth, when that Queen conveyed the great tithes to the family of Sneyd (Sir William Sneyd) subject to a charge of £5 annually to the poor. This is called Queen Elizabeth's Dole, which is given annually to the poor of the parish upon Good Friday morning. There were other Wolstanton Benefactions all of which have we believe been lost with the exception of the Brett Dole which is still distributed upon the same day as the Queen Elizabeth Dole. Some of the Charities however refer to other parts of the ancient parish.

The list of Benefactions recorded on Tables in Wolstanton Church are as follows:—

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BENEFACTIONS.

To the Parish of Woolstanton.

1.

Queen Elizabeth of famous Memory Late Queen of England, left Five Pounds yearly for ever, to be dispos'd of amongst the Poor House-holders of the Parish of Woolstanton which said sum is charged upon the Com-Tithes of the said Parish.

2.

Mr. Edward Unwin late of Hardings Wood gave unto the poorest House-holders of the Parish of Woolstanton, that are no Beggars upon every Good Friday, the sum of Thirty Shillings amongst Twenty of them.

3.

Mr. Dale late of Mowle left Three Shillings yearly for ever for and towards the repair of the Parish Church of Woolstanton.

4.

William Abnett late of Audley, Gent: left Four Shillings to be paid yearly out of a Field at Winbrooke called Up-Smith-Hill to be dealt in Groat Loaves by the Church Officers of Wolstanton on Good Friday for ever to twelve poor House-holders.

5.

John Cowell late of Knutton gave unto the poor House-holders of Chesterton and Knutton Thirty Two Shillings yearly for ever, and also to the South side of Woolstanton Parish the sum of Twenty Pounds to set poor children apprentice.

6.

The honourable Lady Frances Noel gave one large silver Cup and a large silver salver to the Parish Church of Woolstanton for the Communion Service.*

*These are still used.

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7.

John Turmore late of Wolstanton gave the sum of Forty Pounds, the Interest to be paid yearly for the use and benefit of the Poor Children of Wolstanton aforesaid to keep them to school or buy books.

8.

Jane Brett widow of Edward Brett Esq. of Dimsdale in the Parish of Woolstanton gave to the poor of the South side of the said Parish Twenty Shillings yearly for ever to be dealt in groat loaves upon the next Sunday to the Seventeenth of February which said sum is charged upon little Dimsdale Estate.

9.

Ralph Bagnall late of Wolstanton gave to the poor of the Township of Wolstanton Ten Shillings to be paid yearly in Bread and to be distributed and given in the Parish Church of Wolstanton aforesaid, by the Person that shall inherit his estate for the time being upon every Good Friday and Christmas Day.

10.

Mrs. Adderly late of Blake-hall in this County left by her last Will and Testament the Sum of Fifty Shillings per Annum to the Poor House-holders in Tunstall which is charged upon certain lands in the Parish of Burslem.

11.

Robert Hulme late of Sandbach in the County of Chester, Physician, left by his last will and testament an Estate in Odd Rode in the said County, Five Pounds for the putting out an apprentice every year, Thirty Shillings to the Curate of New Chappel, and the overplus to the Schoolmaster of New Chappel that should teach a Grammar School for the instructing of eighteen Poor Boys, which amount to Fifteen Pounds per annum (1704). *

* Still enjoyed but transferred to Tunstall Art and Science Schools.

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12.

John Cartlich late Citizen and Goldsmith of London by his last Will and Testament, gave Fifty Pounds the Interest to be given to Such Poor Persons as receive no Pension or relief from the officers or overseers of the Poor of the Parish.

13.

Joseph Bourne late of Chell left by will 20/- a year to the poor inhabitants of the North side of the Parish of Wolstanton and also gave to the Schoolmaster of Newchapel 30/- a year for instructing two poor boys.

Thomas Child (by will 1791) and Wm. Baddeley, both of Tunstall, also left Charities.

Rev Lewis Sneyd left £1000 for the Education of the poor of the whole of Wolstanton "as it existed in its undivided state in 1824 in connection with the Church of England." This sum was divided amongst six Schools in the Parish.

Mrs. Sparrow née Moreton by her will (April 1874) left the interest of £200 per annum for the benefit of the National Schools in the Township of Wolstanton.

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Chapter VI.

TITHES: VICARAGE AND SCHOOLS.

AN interesting record of the tithes belonging to the Vicar of Wolstanton in 1698 is as follows:—

A Terrier of Glebe Lands and an account of the rest of the rights belonging to the Vicar of Wolstanton given in at the visitation of the Right Reverend father in God William Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry held at Stafford the eighth day of August Anno Dni 1698.

Upon the premises a House consisting of three bays of building, a Stable one bay, a Barn three bays, one Garden lying on the east side of the house about the fortieth part of a Acre, one garden and orchard both lying on the South side of the said House near half an acre, a garden at the north end of the said House being about the twentieth part of an acre, the upper Wall croft about two acres bownden on the one side by the gardens lying on the South side of the said House and on the other side by the lower Wall croft, the lower wall croft consisting of about four acres adjoyning to a certain comon called the Marsh, the Tanpitt croft consisting of about three acres

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adjoining to the Comon last mentioned, the wheat croft consisting of about four acres bownds to the Marsh Westward. North to widd Moreton's land East and South to widd Talbots, the two Sparches lying on each side the lane betwixt Wolstanton and Newcastle and consisting of about ten acres, twenty acres of arable land lying at the north end of a certain comon field comonly called Brampton. Note that there is a butt in the aforesaid wheat croft belonging to widd Moreton and Thomas Moreton which has yearly been enjoyed by the Vicar under the yearly rent of two shillings and sixpence.

AN ACCOUNT OF TYTHES.

There is a modus for Hay out of the town meadows of Wolstanton which amounts to three pounds and sixpence yearly to the Vicar and all the rest of the parish pays a small modus four pence, three pence two pence and one penny according to their respective Tenem'ts Calfe and Lambe are gathered in kind, the third best belonging to the Vicar if there be seven, if not three halfpence a calfe and one half penny for every lambe, all the other small tythes are gathered in kind. The offerings are two pence a piece for the master of a family and his wife, for servants and others one penny. The Clerk's wages are customary paid by every respective Householder.

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THE SURPLICE FEES.

For a burying nine pence, for churching a woman eightpence, for a marriage published two shillings and fourpence, by License five shillings.

John Woodhouse,
Ralph Moreton,
William Lowe,
Richard Lawton, } Churchwardens.
William Ford, Vicar.

Amongst the papers at Wolstanton Vicarage there is also an interesting memorandum written by the Parish Clerk as follows :—

". A memorandum necessary to be kept for the "use of the Parish of Woolstanton relating to "the nomination of the clerk and one of the "churchwardens, who is chosen annually on "Easter Tuesday, together with a correct "account to whom each *Dole* of the wall of the "Church Yard belongs to repair [either person "or Township] as was the custom in the Life "time of the Rev'd Mr. Ardern, who was suc-"ceeded by the Rev'd Mr. Middleton who sold "the timber and the Lime belonging to the "Vicarage, and totally neglected the rights "thereof. John Mills was appointed to the "offices of Parish-Clerk and Churchwarden by "the Rev'd Edward Sneyd Vicar on the Death "of John Payne in the year 1757, which custom "of nominating a warden, he has regularly "observed either by himself, or in his absence

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"by proxy. The Doles belonging to the "churchyard fence are as follows :—

" *Imprimis.* The Lich-Gates belong to the "Parish at large.

2.

" The wall between the Lich Gates and the "Little Gate to Walter Sneyd Esq: for New "House near the High-Car.

" 3. The little Gate to the Parish at large.

" 4. The Fence at the end of Sqr. Cotton's "House to Mr. Bennett Big Dimsdale.

" 5. Ditto next to his stable to Thursfield "[now called New Chapel] namely ten yards "and a half long, &c., &c."

The present Vicarage of Wolstanton is situated across the road from the Church. It is a good substantial house, and is probably about three hundred years old. There is a stone in the cellar with the date 16—.* The house was at one time colour-washed white, but was encased with red brick by the Rev. J. T. Jeffcock in 1867/8, and at the same time he enlarged it. In the dining room at the extremities of the oaken beams which support the ceiling are four coats of arms, viz: the Royal arms, the arms of the See of Lichfield, the arms of Sneyd, and lastly those of Jeffcock.

The ancient Vicarage is said to have been what is now the three cottages below the Church.

* The date is now undecipherable.

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It will interest some of our readers to know that John Leech, the well known draughtsman, was married at Wolstanton Church in May, 1842. His wife was Anne, daughter of Charles Eaton, of Knutton. His first contribution to "Punch" had been in the previous year. One of Miss Eaton's bridesmaids was Miss Challinor, of Leek, afterwards married to Wm. Lewthwaite, D.L., of Broadgate, Cumberland.

Regarding the National Schools at Wolstanton. We have already seen that several persons left monies for the Education of the poor children of the parish, the earliest recorded being Edward Turmore in 1696, and there have been several others who left property for this specific purpose, amongst which we observe Ralph Sneyd and Mrs. Sparrow, and we now quote a portion of a document relating to the Schools.

Manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

"In 1841 at the Special Court Baron and
"Customary court of the most noble George
"Granville, Duke and Earl of Sutherland
"Knight of the most noble order of the Garter,
"Lord of the said Manor as Lessee of our Sov-
"ereign Lady the Queen in the Right of her
"Duchy of Lancaster held at Newcastle-under-
"Lyme in and for the said Manor on Thursday
"the 29th day of April in the year of our Lord
"1841 before Thomas Fenton Esquire Steward
"of the said Manor."

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"To this Court come in their several proper persons, Ralph Sneyd of Keele Hall in the County of Stafford Esquire, the Rev'd John Tyson, Clerk Vicar of the Parish Church of Wolstanton within this Manor, and Edward Wood of Porthill [and Newbold Revel, Co. Warwick], and their Co Trustees, Spencer Rogers, John Adams of Newcastle-under-Lyme, John Bennett, Luke Bennett of Dimsdale, Edward Adams of Basford Hall, Robert Williamson, Hugh Henshall Williamson of Goldenhill, Thomas Kinnersley of Clough Hall, Smith Child of Newfield, Francis Stanier of Silverdale, and Samuel Peake Esquires praying that they may be admitted joint tenants to the plot, piece or parcel of land, buildings, &c. and Surrendered by Ralph Sneyd to the use of himself and of the said John Tyson, and the Co Trustees their heirs and assigns, &c. &c.," this referred to the National School premises which "shall always be united to the National Society for the Promoting of the Education of the Poor in the Principle of the Established Church." *

* It was on the 25th August, 1828 at the time of the Peel Ministry, that the collection of voluntary contributions was authorized by Royal Command for the purpose of Enlarging, Building and Rebuilding or Repairing the Churches, in England and Wales, all monies to be paid over to the Secretary of the Society. In August 1831 the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry was instructed by the King (William IV.) through the Archbishop of Canterbury to solicit contributions towards the Society (The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts), for the Religious Welfare of the vast population

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In 1871 the Schools were rebuilt and constituted a public Elementary School within the meaning of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.

The Committee of Managers were:—

Edmund T. W. Wood	John Thomas Jeffcock
W. Adams	Harry T. Davenport
Samuel Oakes	Charles Challinor
John Alcock	Ralph Alcock
S. P. Ledward	James Marsh
Thomas Hassells	John Buckley

There are of course several deeds relating to the Schools, but to copy out in full does not come within the scope of this little book.

We are greatly indebted for the rebuilding of the Schools to the exertions of the then Vicar, the Rev. J. T. Jeffcock.

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in America and India dependent upon the British Government. This Society soon spread to different Countries and is, as most of us know, still carrying on its good work.

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Chapter VII.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EARLIER VILLAGE.

The population of Wolstanton Parish in 1831 was as follows :—

Townships.	*Population in 1831.*	*Number of Acres.*		
Wolstanton ...	1083 ...	870	3	15
Chatterley	308 ...	1563	1	36
Chesterton * ...	960 ...	1091	2	27
Knutton	933 ...	1713	2	9
Tunstall	3673 ...	795	2	36
Chell	535 ...	740	3	14
Oldcott	822 ...	714	0	22
Ranscliff (Ravenscliff)	835 ...	375	1	9
Brieryhurst	900 ...	922	0	5
Thursfield (Newchapel)	389 ...	559	2	33
Stadmoreslow ...	290 ...	601	0	25
Wedgwood ...	125 ...	431	2	0
	10883	10379	3	0

* Chesterton (the Mediolanum of the Itinerary) was formed a Parish in 1846, from the parishes of Wolstanton and Audley. Its Church of Holy Trinity was consecrated in 1882.

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Wolstanton, Chatterley, Chesterton, and Knutton townships formed the south side of the Parish, the north side consisted of the chapelry of Thursfield (Newchapel) and comprised the remaining eight townships namely :—

Brerehurst.	Stadmoreslow.
Chell.	Thursfield.
Oldcott.	Tunstall Court Liberty.
Rainscliffe.	Wedgwood.

It is interesting to note that Keele was in early days a Chapel in Wolstanton Parish *(Archdeaconry of Stoke-upon-Trent, Hutchinson)* and was purchased from the Crown by Sir William Sneyd, of Bradwell, 1545.

Of the other Churches which sprung up in the Parish of Wolstanton, we notice Goldenhill, the first stone of which was laid by Mrs. Smith Child on the 3rd of August, 1840.

Chell Mission Church was built in 1894, the earlier one which is now a Sunday School, being built in 1882, as a Chapel-of-ease to Newchapel.

St. James' Newchapel, was rebuilt in 1880, standing upon the site of a Church, which was erected in the 16th century, but there was probably a Church here in remote days.

The unfortunate name of *Newchapel* may have arisen when the new Church (Chapel-of-ease to Wolstanton) was erected in 1570. It was called

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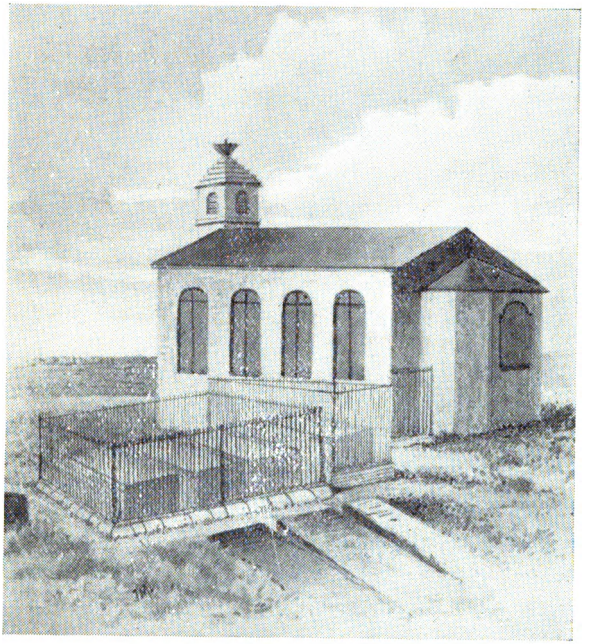

NEWCHAPEL OLD CHURCH.
As it appeared 1766—1877.

(To the left is Brindley's Tomb.)

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Thursfield in the inventory of 1552, and Turvoldesfeld in Domesday. The Church stands on a summit of 740 feet high, from which an excellent view of the surrounding neighbourhood can be obtained.

We do not pretend to give a list of the Incumbents of every Church erected in the old parish of Wolstanton, but as Newchapel is of early foundation we think a list, in this case, will prove of interest. We shall also give a list of those at Christ Church, Tunstall.

A list of Incumbents at Newchapel as far as we have yet been able to discover are as follows:—

Resident 1734, Roger Hewson
1734, Ralph Baddiley
1741, Thomas Malbon
1777, Joshua Stonehewer
1790, Ralph Moreton
1799, John Lawton
1832, William Carter
1842, Thurstan Forshaw
1875, Thomas Frith Salmon
1885, Charles David Rae
1892, John Parkinson Bygott
1905, Elmitt Raithby Browne

In 1715 Queen Anne's Bounty granted £200 to meet £200 from William Bourne, Jun., and others for the "Chapel of Wolstanton." A claim

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by John Harding, Vicar of Wolstanton, versus Dryden Sneyd, John Bowyer, and Sarah Crew (a Bourne), to the advowson, was decided in their favour, c. 1740. Registers are extant from 1722. It was formed a Parish in 1846.

St. Thomas' Mow Cop, was built in 1843, it is on the borders of Cheshire, and in the townships of Stadmoreslow and Brieryhurst.

The Church of St. Thomas,' Kidsgrove, was built in 1836 at considerable private cost by the Kinnersley family, the then owners of Clough Hall.*

Rev. Edward Carless, curate to the Rev. Lewis Sneyd, Vicar of Wolstanton, lived at the Beeches,† now called Old Marsh House. He had a School there and taught many gentlemen's sons, including members of the Davenport and Adams families. He was very learned especially in classics. One of his sisters married into the well-known Attwood family, of Birmingham. He afterwards

* Clough Hall was built by John Gilbert, the Duke of Bridgewater's Agent. He helped the Duke and the famous Brindley with the opening up of the canals, and was afterwards in partnership with Mr. Jonathan Worthington of Moorhill, near Stourport, as general carriers on the Canal. Clough Hall is just in Audley Parish.

† The Beeches has been owned by the Tellwright family (late of Sneyd and Biddulph) for some years. According to *Ward* p. 204 the name is very old in this district, and may have descended from remote ancestry who exercised the *Tile-wright's* Craft in the Saxon era.

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became a Vicar in the South of England, he died in 1833 and was buried at Wolstanton. His wife was also buried there, she was a daughter of the Rev. Mark Noble, F.S.A., the celebrated genealogist.

Wolstanton village was a very charming one, indeed it was one of those typical English villages which Hugh Thomson delights to draw, and remained as such until about 1870.

Many of the oldest villagers remember that part of Wolstanton—alas! a village no longer—called the Marsh (across which the breezes come unchecked for miles, thus helping to render the place so healthy,) a much wilder place than it is to-day, with coarse grass and tall rushes, in which children were often lost. A portion, however, at least, of this Common must have been carefully tended, for we hear of a race ground for the pedestrians of the district. These race matches were looked upon with somewhat different eyes a century ago. On the level road which leads across the Marsh, *Henry Wedgwood*, some forty years ago, tells us through the *Sentinel*, that at these matches a grand stand used to be erected and that the country gentlemen, and many of the more wealthy Manufacturers of the district, flocked to witness the contests. There are one or two thatched cottages still in existence on the Marsh.

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Many years ago the principal road from Tunstall or Burslem to Newcastle by Wolstanton (the roads from Tunstall and Burslem joining at Trubshaw Cross—where an ancient stone cross once stood, the only remains now being the stone which forms the base for a large lamp-pillar) was down Silverdale Road, Wolstanton, (originally Robinson's or Meakin's Lane) past the Tan-yard which was in that road, down Spark's Hollow over a common field called the Brampton into Merrial Street, Newcastle. Another way being the present route through the "village" past the Church across the Marsh; but prior to 1850—1860 this was by no means such a wide road, and below May Bank by Brampton Farm it diverged a little to the right until Brampton Lodge was reached, when the road entered Newcastle as it now does, but the hill was we are told exceedingly steep.

A pack of Harriers at one time belonging to Lewis Adams, of the Watlands, were kept at Wolstanton, the Kennels being at the bottom of Wall Lane, (Knutton Road).

Mr. Lewis Adams (first Chief Constable of Stoke-upon-Trent,) was Master of the North Staffordshire Harriers for several years prior to 1840,* after which time they were taken in hand by Mr. William Davenport, of Longport and Maer.

* Lewis Adams was well-known in his day, he died at the Watlands, in September, 1850, and was buried in the

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LEWIS ADAMS OF WATLANDS, ESQUIRE,
Master North Staffordshire Harriers.
Born 1805—Died 1850.

From the painting 9 ft. x 6 ft., at Moreton House.

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Mr. W. Davenport exchanged the pack for fox hounds (The North Staffordshire Hunt) and for many years they were, like the Harriers, kennelled at Wolstanton, and the immediate district was hunted within the last thirty years. The writer has a letter written from Greenfield, Feb. 18th, 1867, by Miss Sarah Adams to Mr. Harry Ward Astbury, of Stand Lodge, Radcliffe, Lancashire, (whom she afterwards married). She writes: "..... I saw nothing of Will * on Saturday as he was out hunting, the hounds met at Bradwell Wood, they found two foxes."

Another interesting reminiscence told by Mr. Hall, of Kynsal Lodge, is quoted by Mr. Blagg in his History of the North Stafford Hounds, and is as follows:—

"*In January, 1847, my father was living at Brampton Tree House near Newcastle. I was home for the holidays, and one afternoon saw hounds and horsemen, a few of the latter in pink, the rest in*

family vault, at Stoke-upon-Trent. From a local paper of the period on the day of his funeral, September 28th, 1850, it is observed "that in Stoke-upon-Trent and in the Newcastle Road, all the shops and public houses were closed and the blinds drawn of the private houses, so also were they at Wolstanton." The number of people who attended his funeral appears to have been enormous.

He was born on the 11th July, 1805, being the third son of William Adams, of Fenton Hall, by Sarah, his wife, eldest daughter of Lewis Heath, of The Hadderidge, Burslem,—and uncle of William Adams, 1833—1905.

* William Adams, 1833—1905.

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plain clothes, coming by Dimsdale Old Hall, hounds in full cry. I immediately got a pony out of the stable and met them at the Hempstalls. The fox was dead beat, and was shortly after killed in my father's orchard. Old Maiden was huntsman, and I think his son was whip. The fox was broken up in front of the house, and I had the brush. Maiden told my father I had properly entered. Mr. Wm. Davenport was Master, but I do not think he was out that day. I remember seeing Lewis Adams of the Watlands, and Mr. Hatton of May Bank, and I think the late Mr. Cartlich. The hounds were then kennelled at Wolstanton. My father, brother, and self often went to see them on a Sunday afternoon. The Brampton, Dimsdale, Hempstalls, etc., were then open country; now they are more or less built over. I do not remember where the fox was found."

The Davenport family were good all-round sportsmen, the author has a letter of 1824, addressed by Henry Davenport (brother to Wm. Davenport) of Longport, to his great grandfather William Adams, of Fenton Hall, Stoke-upon-Trent, asking the latter to come shooting with him at Westwood, Leek, to bring his own dogs, and to meet him at Smallthorne Gate.

The house and grounds of the Watlands and Park which in those days extended to what is now called Silverdale Road, and on the north side to Dimsdale fields was a very charming country seat.

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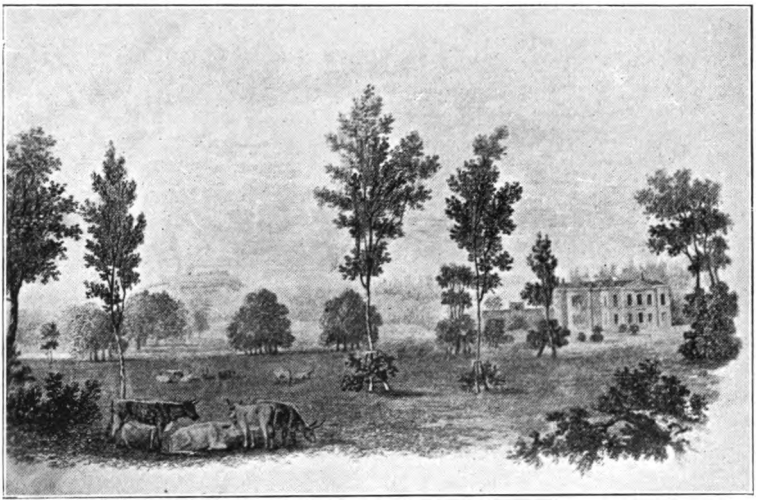

THE WATLANDS,
Circa 1840.

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The Toll-gate was almost in the centre of the village being near where the present Lily Street meets High Street leaving Silverdale Road (Robinson's Lane) on the Newcastle side of the gate. It was removed in October, 1878.

It was in about 1880—90, that the village of Wolstanton became more and more popular, the larger properties being cut up for medium sized good and pleasant houses, but it was some years earlier when we see that land was put up for sale. The following is from the "Stafforshire Advertiser" of June 18th, 1859:—

WOLSTANTON.—BUILDING LAND, &C., FOR SALE.

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE TREATY, about thirteen acres of LAND, ten of which are suitable for Building purposes, and the remainder for Gardens, &c. The above Property adjoins the Watlands and Dimsdale estates, and for several years past has been in the occupation of the North Staffordshire Hunt. The greatest portion of the purchase money may remain on security for a term of years, if required. For price, and other particulars, application to be made to R. D. VIVIAN, 175, Waterloo Road Burslem.—18/6/59.

Dimsdale Hall, Moreton House, The Watlands, Basford Hall, and Port Hill House, were the

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principal houses in the vicinity, indeed there were no others except Farms and cottages. Porthill House is an old house and has been several times enlarged, and with its charming grounds has been occupied by several familes, few remember Mr. Wm. Clowes living there (whose daughter Anne married Mr. Hugh Henshall Williamson, of Greenway Bank) or Mr. Edward Wood who purchased the property about 1840, his family having now left the county some thirty years or more. Basford Hall with its extensive park was a pleasant country place; it is many years since Dr. Bent lived there, indeed it was purchased in 1838 by Mr. Edward Adams, and in 1875 became the property of his niece's husband, Mr. Charles Challinor, youngest son of Mr. Wm. Challinor, of Leek.

Owing to the increasing population and mainly through the energy of the Rev. O. W. Steele, a Chapel-of-ease (St. Andrew's) was built by subscription, in the township, at the top of Porthill; it was finished and opened March, 1886. It is in the early English style of the 13th century.

The Mission Room, at Longbridge Hayes, was built in the year 1870, and the one at Cross Heath in 1875, both through the exertions of the Rev. J. T. Jeffcock.

In the last half of the 19th century the Churchwardens who served the longest time and did the

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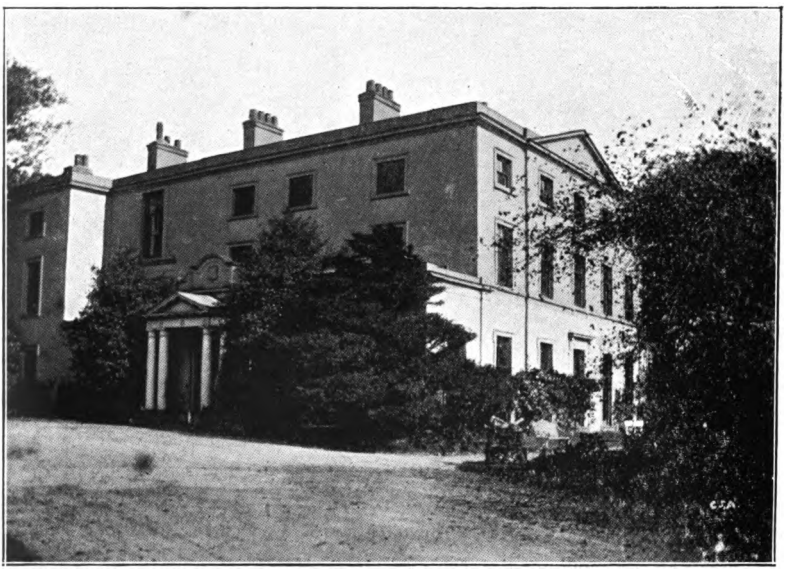

Basford Hall.

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most useful work were undoubtedly Thomas Hassells, William and Thomas Hyatt, of Highfield, Edward Wood, of Porthill, William Adams of Greenfield and Wolstanton, Oliver Lodge and Charles Challinor of Basford Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Lodge with their large family (one of whom is of course the well known Sir Oliver) lived at the Watlands for some ten or more years from 1875, but between the days of Lewis Adams and the Lodges, the Woods lived there. Mr. Edmund Thomas Wedgwood Wood having purchased the property from the sisters of the late Mr. Lewis Adams in 1863. Mr. Wood was the youngest son of Mr. John Wood, of Brownhills, near Tunstall, a scion of one of our old Staffordshire families. Mr. Edmund Wood migrated to Henley Hall, Ludlow, where his descendants still live, but other members of the family have not entirely left Staffordshire, for Major Wood is of Bishton Hall and Mr. E. J. W. Wood of Meece.

St. Marys,' Knutton, was begun in 1875, and finished in the following year.

In 1867 the patronage of the living of Silverdale was transferred from Mr. Ralph Sneyd to the Vicar of Wolstanton.

St. Lukes,' Silverdale, was consecrated in 1853.

Longport is probably the nearest Station for

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Wolstanton. Until 1871 it was called Burslem. (At which date the loop line was opened, and Burslem was thus afforded a more Central Station on "the loop.") It was in 1848 that the line from Stafford to Crewe was opened, via. Stoke and Harecastle, but for many years afterwards nothing would induce many people to go through Harecastle tunnel, and the author remembers his father saying, how *his* father and mother always preferred to drive to Crewe, Sandbach,* or Whitmore. When a long visit was intended, the family would drive in an open barouche to Whitmore, which carriage would be placed upon an ordinary truck and the occupants would sit in it till they reached Liverpool, or wherever their destination might be. How quaint this would appear to our modern eyes.

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* Letter from Sarah Adams written from Greenfield, near Tunstall, 11th June, 1845, to her father in Liverpool on her return home from School at Cheadle Hall, near Stockport. " . . . . I came home quite safely yesterday. My Aunt Doe (Miss Theodosia Heath—sister to her grandmother), was at Sandbach with the carriage waiting when the train drew up."

(This would however be at the time when the Stafford Stoke, and Crewe line would be in course of construction.)

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Chapter VIII.

DIMSDALE, BRADWELL, etc.

PROBABLY some little time after the Wolstans left Dimsdale,* namely at the Domesday survey, we find Gladuin and Goduin seated there as Richard the Forester's tenants.

From *Testa de Nevill* it is found that lands in Dimsdale and other adjacent places are held by Randulph de Cnoton (Knutton), probably a son of Richard Forester (*vide, Eyton's Domesday Studies, p. 53)*; a man "soke" of the King in the time of Henry III; and Nicolas Botiler also appears to have possessed Dimsdale, Holditch, and Whitmore, which belonged to the Manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme in the reign of Edward I. (1297), after which it became the property of the Bretts, the Bretts being seated at Dimsdale before the Sneyds came to Bradwell. At the close of the 16th century (1581) the Sneyds migrated from Bradwell Hall to Keele. Bradwell had been the chief seat of the Sneyds since the second year of the reign of Henry IV. It came to them from their kinsman Lord Audley in fee-farm. The family lived there until Ralph Sneyd, son of Sir William,

* In Domesday, Dimsdale is Dulmesdene.

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built Keele. They had probably dwelt at Tunstall before their Bradwell acquisition, "the Hall or Chief House" at Tunstall coming to them from the Tunstall * family by marriage. In 1644 Keele Hall was pillaged by the Commonwealth soldiers and we copy an extract from *Erdeswick* upon the subject as follows:—

"It (Keele Hall) was ordered by the Com-
"monwealth Parliament to be demolished by
"Capt. Barbour's soldiers, 1643.
"1 March 1643—1644: It is this day ordered
"by the Committee of sequestrations of this
"county, that Mrs. Snead, wife of Ralp Snead
"of Keele Esq., shall peaceably hold and enjoy
"all the estate of her husband, knowne by the
"names of Bradwell Hall, and Bradwell Parke,
"the tithes of Wolstanton, Keele demesnes,
"Bently demesne, Newcastle Milnes and all
"those yearly rents of Mr. Snead's that are
"issuing out of the several lordships of Hilton,
"Chatterley, Keele, Tunstall, and Bradwell,
"for the space of one whole year from Lady
"Day next ensuing, the date hereof yealdinge
"and payinge to the sequestrators for the use
"of the King and Parliament the sum of four
"hundred pounds."

* Henry de Snede married circa 1290, Margaret, the daughter and heir of Nicolas de Aldiheley, who had assumed the name of Tunstall from the Manor of that name.

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But the days of the Commonwealth were not of long duration, and as soon as the country had become peaceable again, Keele came back to its rightful owners, the Sneyds.

Early in the 18th century, part of Keele was accidently burnt when many valuable papers were irrevocably lost.

Younger members of the Sneyd family for several generations continued to live at intervals at Bradwell, at other times letting it to several different families, notably a portion of the estate in 1690 to 1710, to John Philip and David Elers who came over from Holland in the train of William of Orange and at first settled at Fulham, London, and made Brown Stone-ware Mugs and Red Teapots,* copying Dwight's (the famous English Potter) productions in those two particular articles. The Elers being introduced to members of the Sneyd family in London, came to Bradwell on hearing of the excellent beds of clay in the vicinity of the house. It was at Bradwell Wood they had their Pot-Works, their home and warehouse being at Dimsdale. In Staffordshire they probably only produced their beautiful unglazed red porcelain Teapots, sold in the Poultry, London, for a guinea or more each specimen.

* Although the Elers excelled as Potters, they had been brought up as Silversmiths, *Vide Burlington Magazine, February, 1908.*

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The brothers Elers taught our local manufacturers much, but not as it would appear the "salt-glaze" ware, which many have supposed to have been the case, for from the writings of *William Turner, F.S.S.*, in the *Connoisseur (Jan., Oct., 1905)* we see the evidence that they did so is anything but clear, even if they did make that particular production themselves, which in the form of Mugs they possibly did.

The Staffordshire Potters according to *Shaw* in his *Chemistry of Pottery, p. 412*, were making salt-glaze ware before the arrival of the Elers, which process they had either discovered themselves or gleaned from John Dwight, or from the Nottingham Potters. In any case, Staffordshire salt-glazed ware soon developed into a very artistic production for the Dinner and Tea table, it was purely English in its inception, and indeed ranks as the most original of English Pottery. It was extremely popular throughout the land for many years, until it was superseded by a more durable kind of ware namely "cream ware," which several Manufacturers lent a hand in introducing and which is still manufactured.

Early in the 16th and 17th centuries the Bretts of Dimsdale, are found staunch supporters of the Church, but in the troublous time of the Commonwealth we hear of John Brett of Dimsdale Hall, as a follower of Thomas Harrison the Regicide,

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DIMSDALE OLD HALL—FRONT VIEW

From a photograph by Cecily Adams, 1900.

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who, as most of us know, came from the ancient Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The brick casing of the front of Dimsdale Old Hall was added by the Bretts early in the 17th century, probably to strengthen the more picturesque "black and white" which it covered. The back of the house however, retains its early English appearance, or rather what is left of it, for a few years ago it was all but entirely demolished. Our illustration shews the front as it appeared a few years ago. The front door is an interesting one of ponderous oak studded with nails, and has a large oaken bolt. The handle to the door is of wrought iron; it is an interesting one as forming a knocker as well. The large west gable now demolished must have been used as the banqueting hall—a very stately and dignified room—and was wainscotted all round. Upon some of the panels, rural scenes were hand-painted, and upon an oaken beam, there were several shields of arms to the Brett family, the arms of Brett being—an azure chevron tri-bezanted upon an argent field; quartered with the arms of the Macclesfields of Chesterton Hall, and several important Staffordshire families. Upon the shield over the fire-place was the date 1608. In 1603, 1608, and 1625, John Brett of Dimsdale, was Mayor of Newcastle, also Wm. Brett was Town Clerk of Newcastle in 1630; and possibly he was the Wm. Brett who

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was Mayor in 1662 and 1669. The Bretts seem to have followed the Sneyds to Keele and many members of their family are buried there.

After the Eler's day, we find the Bennetts owners and occupiers of the Hall until they built the newer house close by—letting the old Hall as a farm. The present front drive leads into a short avenue from which one merges into a lane, which leads into the Newcastle and Chesterton road, *i.e.*, the old coach road from London to the North. Formerly however, there was a road upon the South side of the House to Little Dimsdale, which led direct to Newcastle. This road formed part of the present road called Sparch (Spark's) Hollow, indeed there is still an indication of the road down an avenue of trees. There are here and there signs of a moat having surrounded the old Hall. It is thought that the ancient stone barn at the back of the house may have been the Chapel belonging to the house—if so, it may have been erected in Saxon times, by the Wolstans, (or Wulfstans as the name is sometimes written).

Bradwell (anciently Broad-wall) Hall, or farm as it now is, still retains some of the charm it undoubtedly possessed years ago. Standing upon rising ground, it commands an interesting view of the neighbourhood. From the front which faces south there is a good view of Dimsdale, almost hidden by trees, and a little farther still,

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BRADWELL—AT THE PRESENT DAY.

From a photograph by Cecily Adams.

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Wolstanton Church spire catches the eye, while to the right, the highest buildings of Newcastle are to be seen. At the back of the house facing north-east is Bradwell wood, the vale of Chatterley, and bearing in the same direction the heights of Mow Cop are observed but a few miles away. The excellent seams of clay and coal in the vicinity have somewhat spoilt its rurality for sundry Brickworks and Collieries are round about. These, if not beautiful, have a prosperous appearance.

To return to the house itself, which, like Dimsdale, has no doubt been cased with brick, probably in the late 16th or early 17th century; however the solid stone foundations some eight hundred years old are still to be seen. Although the house is of considerable size to-day, at one time it was considerably larger, and at the back there is in the yard remains of further stone foundations. *Plot* (1670) mentions Bradwell with several other seats which "doe shew a great deal of present or of past magnificence." "The mansion has been practically pulled down, and the extensive deer park of which Robert Parker was the quondam keeper dis-parked." Another item of interest, is the remains of the moat evident traces of which are to be seen, at intervals, all round the house, courtyard, and barns, the latter of which are very extensive.

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The Eler's Pot Works lay to the south-east of the farm nearly half a mile away, although some say that a barn just outside the moat which has a newer appearance than the others, was built upon the site of a Potter's oven. If there was a Pot Works here, it is not likely to have been worked by the Elers, for the *Rheads* in their interesting work "Staffordshire Pots and Potters" prove without a doubt that their pot works was, as indicated above, where Bradwell *House* stands, which is about half a mile away from the old Hall on the south-eastern ridge of the wood just above Longbridge Hayes.

Very early in the 18th century, Bradwell Hall (or Brada as it is often found written) was rented for a time by the Marsh family, to a Commonwealth marriage of this family we have already referred. The Marsh's were a well-known local family of yeomen and Potters in the 18th century. Is it likely that they built and worked the pot-works by the barns at the hall?—if Pot Works was ever there—certainly there is a pit close by where a fine seam of clay has evidently been worked many years ago. Of the present generation, Captain F. G. Marsh, of the Indian Army, is a direct descendant.

In 1575, Broadwall Park was let to Samuel Smith, * but we think these tenancies were not

* Chief Constable of Tunstall Manor Court 1757. Members of nearly all the important Yeomen families in the district were Chief Constables of Tunstall Court in their day.

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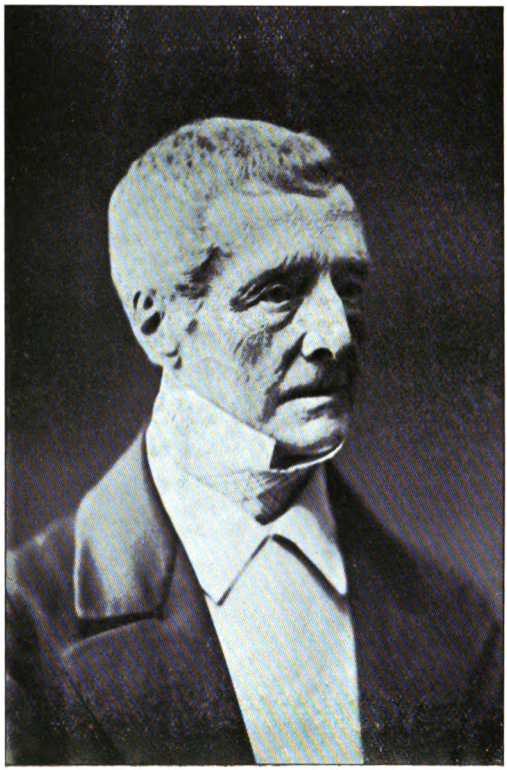

RALPH SNEYD OF KEELE HALL, ESQUIRE, D.L.
Born 1793 –Died 1870.

From a photograph by E. Harrison & Son Newcastle.

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of long duration, for younger members of the Sneyd family are often found there—the last being Mr. William Sneyd, already referred to, who died at the hall in 1836. Dimsdale, Bradwell and the Holditch farm * are the only houses which remain to-day as they appeared (or nearly so) in the days of Queen Elizabeth.

We give an interesting portrait of the late Mr. Ralph Sneyd (uncle of the present Mr. Ralph Sneyd, of Keele, &c). He was the son of Walter Sneyd, of Keele Hall, Sneyd, Bradwell, &c., by the Hon. Louisa Bagot, his wife, daughter of William, 1st Lord Bagot. He was born 6th October, 1793; High Sheriff of Staffordshire, 1844, and died unmarried in July, 1870, when he was succeeded by his brother the Rev. Walter Sneyd, M.A., F.S.A., J.P. Mr. Ralph Sneyd was patron of the living of Wolstanton on the death of his father in 1829, and presented the living to the following clerics: Reverends Walter Sneyd, John Tyson and John Thomas Jeffcock. The Rev. John Tyson was the Vicar at the time of the rebuilding of the Nave of the Church in 1858, and was Incumbent longer than any other Vicar in modern days.

Tradition has it that there was a skirmish at Dimsdale between the Cavaliers and the Round-

* There was a Richard de Holedich holding lands in Knutton 1318. *Vide* Feet of Fines, M.S., Wm. Salt, Library.

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heads, marks of the bullet shots are said to have until lately been observed upon some of the Dimsdale out-buildings. Soon after this time we no longer hear of the Bretts living at Dimsdale Hall, and in 1690 it was leased to the Elers, already mentioned as having a pot works at Bradwell. Earthen-pipes were laid down by Elers from Bradwell to Dimsdale, to be employed as a sort of telephone from their home to the works, and it is interesting to observe that some of these pipes have lately been discovered. They are in possession of Mr. Rhead, of Newcastle, and lent to Hanley Museum. It is said that they were also laid from Dimsdale to the Church, but we have not much faith in this tradition as they could not have been of much use.

John Philip Elers was the son of the Elector of Mentz and his godmother was the Queen of Sweden. They were a family of some importance, his grandfather, Admiral Elers, commanded the fleet at Hamburg and married a Princess of the Royal House of Baden. John Philip Elers married in 1699, Elizabeth, daughter of John Banks, of Uttoxeter, connected by marriage with the Vernon family, a member of which family was then Vicar of Wolstanton.

To Dimsdale Hall Elers must have brought his wife, for it is not till 1710 that he gave up being a Master Potter and left Staffordshire for Dublin.

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View of the back of Dimsdale Old Hall,
in the 18th century.

From a photograph (of an Engraving) in the possession of Mr. F. W. Hall, Wolstanton.

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His son, Paul Elers, married a Hungerford of Bourton, and their eldest daughter, Maria,* was the mother of Maria Edgeworth, the well-known authoress, who, writing to her cousin Captain George Elers, Aug. 27th, 1833, from her house at Edgeworth Town concerning old family matters, tells him how proud she is of her great grandfather having been an early Staffordshire Potter.

From Staffordshire Suits in the court of Star Chamber, *temp Henry III.* abstracted from the original documents in the Public record office, (Vol. vi. fol. 70) is found the following interesting entry :—

"Most humbley complaineth your subject "Ranulph Brett [Dimsdale] Newcastle-under-"Lyme, co. Stafford, that whereas your said "subject the Sunday next after St. Margaret's "Day last, which was the 21st of July in the "30th year of your reign, went in peaceable "manner to the Parish Church of Owlsynton "[Wolstanton], to the intent to hear divine "service, and being in the Church certain "riotous and seditious persons, that is to say, "Thomas Amys, Raffe Amys, Stephen Fenton, "John Cleyton, and John Myddelton, of the "parish of Shelton, and James Tybryght, of "Burysden, riotously assembled themselves

* Maria Elers married Richard Lovell Edgeworth, of Edgeworth Town.

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"with swords, staves and defensive and invasive
"weapons by the procurement and setting on
"of one ill-disposed person, John Amys, of
"Shelton, and in the body of the said church
""at the myddest of evensonge" assaulted and
"beat one Randulph Buknall, servant to your
"said subject, and had not certain honest per-
"sons been then present they had put him in
"great danger of his life, and in the chancel
"where your said subject was the said riotous
"persons made an assault on him to the dis-
"turbance of God's service and great danger of
"his life, had he not been delivered by the help
"of the honest parishioners, and put into the
"house of one Jone Tybryght, widow, dwelling
"thereby. Please your highness to grant writs
"to be directed to the said persons commanding
"them to appear in your Star Chamber to
"answer to the premises."

In writing of Dimsdale* we must not forget that Queen Margaret is said to have stayed the night there before her flight after viewing the battle of Blore Heath from Mucclestone Church Tower.

For many centuries the Sneyds have been the principal landowners in Wolstanton Parish, (this of course includes Tunstall its most important

* Dimsdale is sometimes described as being at or near Newcastle, as the latter was the nearest Borough town.

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member, also Chell, &c.,) but others have also held considerable property the more important being the Moretons, Bretts, Bennetts, Baddeleys and Childs, Adams family, Williamsons, Cartliches and others; the Heathcotes in Knutton and Ranscliff. Many of these families still own properties in the civil parish of Wolstanton, and in looking back six hundred years ago to a document at the Record Office (Inquisition post mortem on Thomas de Audley, *Edward I*) it is very interesting to see many names of holders of property in this parish at that time which are familiar to us. John de Snodde, (Sneyd); Ralf de Tunstal; William de Borwardesley (Burslem); William Adams; Adam Trusfeld (Thursfield); Henry de Weggeswode (Wedgwood); William de Trumpeshawe (Trubshaw Cross); Allot de Knoton (Knutton); Thomas Chaderleye (Chatterley), &c., &c. All these personages must have worshipped at their Wulstanestoun Church, indeed we have reason to believe they were more devout than we of the present century, and certainly more so than the 18th century citizen.

From the Lichfield Episcopal Registers, iiij. Kal. Dec. 1360, we find the following entries appertaining to Wolstanton.

v. Id. Dec. To William de Blaby, Rector of Wolstanton, 3 years' absence to serve Henry, Earl of Lancaster.

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A.D. 1364. Last but one of October. To the Rector of Wolstanton, absence for one year.

1379. v. Kal. Oct. To John de Schalford, Rector of Wolstanton. Absence for three years. He pays next year 20s. and the following years 2 marks.

From the Plea Rolls at the Record office there is the following:—

"At Easter in the fourth year of the reign of "Richard II., John, King of Castile and Leon, "and Duke of Lancaster sued Thomas de Pod-"more, Ralph de Podmore, and James de Pod-"more for breaking *vi et armis* together with "John de Podmore and Ralph Slynges into his "free warren at Penkhulle, Wolstanton, Clay-"ton, and Shepbrugge (Seabridge) and taking "hares, and rabbits, pheasants and partridges. "None of the defendants appeared, and the "Sheriff returned that they could not be found. "He was therefore ordered to arrest and pro-"duce them on the Quindene of Holy Trinity."

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Chapter IX.

TUNSTALL:
The most important portion of the Parish of Wolstanton.

TUNSTALL* probably, of Anglo-Saxon origin, was, soon after the Conquest, held by the Barons Audley until the time of Elizabeth, when a portion of it came into possession of Sir William Sneyd of Bradwell. (*Ward* in his *History of Stoke-on-Trent*, gives a full account of its origin and its early possessors.) Unnamed in Domesday it probably came under Wolstanton or Chell. It was, however, an important Manor, and Burslem (Barcardeslim in Domesday) was at one time merged in with it. The name Tunstall is thought to be compounded of *Tun* (town), and *stall*, (an elevated seat;) but according to *Verstegan* its etymology should be Tuns-deal, the word *deal* signifying *part;* and in this instance referable no doubt to its forming an important part of the Parish of Wolstanton.—(*Ward.*) Amongst the Registers at Wolstanton are many old documents appertaining to Tunstall Manor Court, which

* As this goes to press it is stated that Tunstall will, in all probability, be federated with all the other Pottery towns, but it seems likely that each town will retain their individual ancient names under that of Stoke-upon-Trent.

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court held a territorial jurisdiction in civil causes, within its limits, as well as the ordinary function of a court Leet and court Baron. * The places which came under its jurisdiction were Audley, Betley, Chesterton, Bradwell, Birchenwood, Talk, Chatterley, Tunstall, Burslem, Sneyd, Chell, Thursfield (Newchapel), Whitfield, Bemersley, Endon, Horton, Gretton, Longsdon, Altonsfield, Norton, Stadmoreslow, Brierehurst, Ranscliff, and Oldcott. According to *Ward*, the Constable of the Leet of Tunstall was an important personage in his day.

In the latter half of the 18th century, William Adams,† the celebrated Staffordshire Potter built the first important potteries called Greengates in Tunstall, in 1780, (*vide Chaffer's Keramic Gallery, 1872; Marks and Monograms (1876) &c., also William Adams, an Old English Potter, by William Turner, F.S.S.* At that time there were only some fifty houses all told, but it astonishingly soon became more and more important, new factories were built, and the population increased enormously. Another old

* Grant of Free Warren to James de Audley, 37 Henry III. 1253.

† William Adams, like his contemporary and friend the eminent Josiah Wedgwood, and others of their time, secured his first knowledge of potting under apprenticeship. They were both descended from a long line of Master Potters. *Vide Meteyard's Life of Wedgwood.* The Wedgwoods derived their origin from Wedgwood, a hamlet, already mentioned as in the parish of Wolstanton.

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Pot works, but very small in its beginning, was that of Enoch Booth, who was at work at Tunstall in 1750, and to him is given the honour of being the first Staffordshire Potter to introduce "Cream ware," having glazed his ware after being first fired in the *bisquet* state with a fluid glaze of lead ore and ground flint. This was improved upon a little later by the Warburtons, the celebrated Josiah Wedgwood and others. Enoch Booth married Ann, daughter of Thomas Child, of the Manor House, * an important yeoman in the town. One of their daughters married Anthony Keeling, who succeeded his father-in-law, enlarged the works more on the lines of Greengates Potteries, and built a good sized house in 1793 near the factory, which factory was in High Street, between where the Sneyd Arms now stands and Well Street. This pottery was afterwards worked by Mr. Goodfellow and others. At Enoch Booth's factory Cookworthy's patent china—under the name of Hollins, Warburton & Co., was for a year or so carried on before their removal to Shelton. Anthony Keeling being one of the partners. The Halls; Beech & Lownds; Child's; Smith's; Bowers; Heaths; Meirs; Elsmore & Forster; Podmore, Walker & Co., and Enoch Wedgwood, were all important Manufac-

* The Manor House has been pulled down, it occupied the site of the ancient Court House, indeed it was no doubt part of the original building.

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turers in the town, and there were other smaller factories. There were also Chemical Works at Clay Hills, at one time worked by Mr. Roylance Child.

The exact spot where the old Tunstall Wind-Mill stood, is we believe to be where Cumberlidge's shop now stands in Peel Street. It was not demolished until 1855, and a portion of the bricks and material were used in buildings for the present Windmill Street.

We have already referred to the few Benefactions for the use of the Poor of Tunstall, under our Wolstanton section, but we would again mention Dr. Robert Hulme's Charity as it is the most important one. He bequeathed to the Chapelry of Newchapel in 1704, 36 acres at Odd Rode, in Cheshire, for the support of a free Grammar School, and £5 a year for apprenticing poor children, and 30/- per year for the Minister. The inhabitants of Tunstall as being within the Chapelry of Newchapel, participate in Dr. Hulme's endowment and the School, at one time at Newchapel, was transferred to Lyndhurst Street, Tunstall, and opened there in 1876. But in January, 1888, the Governors arranged with the Charity Commissioners to close the school, for the average attendance of pupils had dwindled, and the income of the trust fund (after providing for payments of £5 the fee of an apprentice, and

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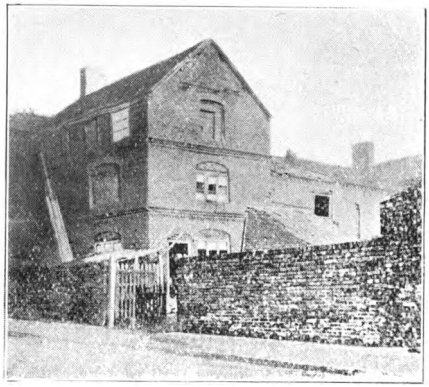

THE REMAINS OF TUNSTALL MANOR COURT LEET.

TUNSTALL OLD WINDMILL.

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30/- to the Vicar of Newchapel) was applied to the Tunstall Schools in connection with the Science and Art Department.

Tunstall's first Railway Station was the Chatterley Station of to-day, the present one on the "Loop Line" being opened in 1873.

Tunstall (Urban District) is 834 statute acres, while that of the ancient parish of Wolstanton (before its dividing up) was upwards of 11,000; so that if some portions of the latter are busy and somewhat smoky, some are suburban, and others may be considered quite country.

To those interested in Tunstall within living memory we would refer the reader to the interesting recollections of Mr. William Scarratt in his "Old times of the Potteries," and for particulars of the general progress of the town, to the address given by A. P. Llewellyn, Esq., (Llewellyn & Son, Solicitors) in 1898, printed by Mr. E. H. Eardley.

The earlier Master Potters of Tunstall were not behindhand in looking after their Parish Church at Wolstanton, for we have seen old ledgers 1790 belonging to some of these gentlemen who paid workmen for repairs to the steeple. But the need of a Church in the township was more than ever necessary as the population grew, for both the Mother Church of Wolstanton, and that at Thurs-

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field (Newchapel) or Burslem were some distance away; * therefore a Church in Tunstall in 1829 † was seriously considered, and Christ Church was finished in 1831, and its Vicarage a few years later. Since then, St. Mary's has also been erected by public subscriptions and at considerable private cost of the Wood family, late of Brownhills; and several Mission Churches.

A list of Incumbents at Christ Church are as follows:—

1832	William Carter
1835	George Gayton Harvey
1840	Theophilus Campbell
1843	Samuel Newill
1853	Robert Hawes, D.D.
1880	Leonard Henry Evans
1887	Allan Acland Pitman

* Up to 1826 there were but two Churches in the extensive parish of Wolstanton, viz:—Wolstanton and Newchapel, but all the villages and townships gradually built Churches of their own, and made themselves into separate ecclesiastical parishes, although several still remain in the civil parish of Wolstanton.

† We learn from the "London Gazette" of the 9th May, 1837, that an Ecclesiastical District has been alloted to Tunstall Church, by a division of the Parish of Wolstanton, in this county. The district parish comprises the townships of Tunstall, Oldcott, and Kidsgrove. The inhabitants of the latter place have been provided with a Church at considerable private cost by Thos. Kinnersley, Esq., but the residents of Goldenhill, having no Church in the village, are now privileged to attend Tunstall Church, in which there are about 360 free sittings appropriated to the use of the poor.

"Staffordshire Advertiser," June, 1837.

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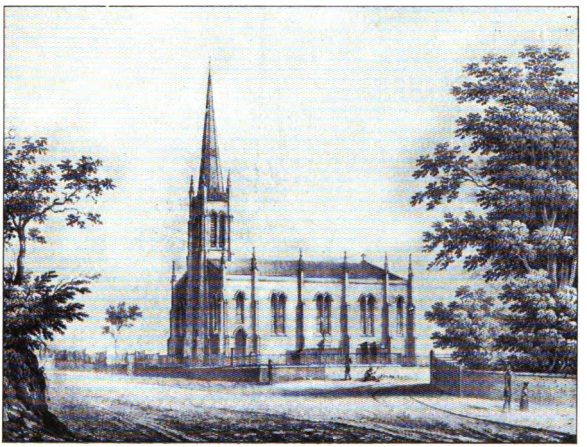

CHRIST CHURCH, TUNSTALL,
Circa 1840.

From an engraving in possession of
Mr. John Weaver Tunstall.

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1890 Alfred Penny
1895 Henry Roe Coldham
1897 Allan Acland Pitman
1900 Douglas Hilton Briggs

It is said that there had been an earlier Church at Tunstall. It is quite possible, for Tunstall was perhaps a more important place in the 14th and 15th centuries, because of its Ironstone mines. The ancient Church is thought to have been almost opposite to the present Church, and when digging foundations within the last forty years for some buildings many human remains were dug up.

From the Pleas of Assize taken at Stafford in the 35th year of King Edward III. we have the following :—

"James de Audleye, of Heleye, sued Hugh of "the Delves for taking *vi et Armis*, minerals "from his iron mines in Tunstal, near Wolstan-"ton, to the value of £40. Hugh did not "appear, and the Sheriff returned *non est inventus*. "He was therefore ordered to arrest and pro-"duce him on the Octave of Holy Trinity. On "which day all the suits were adjourned to the "Octave of St. Michael, on which day the "Sheriff made no return, and he was ordered "to produce him on the Octave of St. Hillary."

Of the old country seats in or about Tunstall and in Wolstanton parish, we must first notice

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Turnhurst, the fine Georgian mansion of the Bowyer, Egerton, and Alsager families; but perhaps better remembered as the home of the famous James Brindley, the engineer, who constructed the Bridgewater Canal. In the garden is still to be found a model of the canal which has been so prominent in the industrial history of the district. Memoirs of Brindley's life have been written by several eminent writers. In the neighbourhood lived, according to tradition, the Harmonious Blacksmith, whose quick and regular strokes on the anvil attracted the attention of Handel when staying at Turnhurst Hall. After Brindley's death, the house was occupied by the Cole family.

Newfield Hall we have already mentioned as being the home of the Childs, who acquired it by marriage with the Baddeleys—who had owned the spot since the days of Edward IV.—about the middle of the 18th century; the Childs retained it and lived there until the middle of the following century.* Greenfield, near Tunstall (which lies between Tunstall and Chell—and now merged in Tunstall,) is also in the parish of Wolstanton. The Hall was built in the last half of the 18th century, and with the land, factories, &c., have been the property of the ancestors of the Adams

* The Adams family purchased Newfield Hall and adjacent property in 1858.

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family for over a century. It boasted the name of a village and is so described in *Pitt's History of Staffordshire; Shaw's History of Stafforshire Potteries; Aiken's Forty Miles round Manchester (1793)* &c. At one time it was called Smithfield. The house has recently been pulled down in order that the coal from underneath might be obtained. Of other principal landed proprietors in Tunstall, *Ward* mentioned Hugh Henshall Williamson, of Greenway Bank; Miss Sparrow, of Bishton, and Miss Moreton; Mr. Philip Egerton Wedgwood, of Burslem; Mr. John Smith, of Tatnall, and Mr. Cartlich.

Hugh Henshall Williamson (already mentioned, page 66, as married to Anne Clowes, of Porthill) was the second son of Robert Williamson, of Longport, by Anne, widow of the famous James Brindley, the Engineer, and daughter of John Henshall, of Newchapel—a Land Surveyor. His elder brother was Robert Williamson, of Ramsdell Hall, and one of his sisters, Mary, married the second Josiah Spode, the famous Potter, of Stoke-upon-Trent. It was Mr. Hugh Henshall, brother of Mrs. Williamson, who completed Brindley's work in the Grand Trunk Canal, and other of his undertakings left incomplete on his (Brindley's) premature death at the age of 56 in 1772—Brindley is buried at Newchapel.

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The Cartlich family have also owned property in Goldenhill and Tunstall for several centuries.

Tunstall although the youngest as a Pottery town of the six towns which go to make up that interesting and nationally important place, *The Staffordshire Potteries*, is one of the most vigourous and flourishing of them.

In 1811 the inhabitants numbered 1677; in 1831, the population had risen to 3,673; in 1851, it was increased to 9,566; and to-day it is estimated at 27,850, an extraordinary increase in so short a time over that of the other pottery towns. It is a large Colliery and Ironstone Mining District as well as being famous for its Pottery, and its Tileries. The Chairman of the Urban District Council is called Chief Bailiff or Chief Constable (at the present time ably held by Mr. Henry Smallman, J.P.) a title which was borne there several centuries ago as Chief Constable of the Court Leet, or Court Baron, already mentioned.

The authority of Tunstall old Court Leet, like most similar feudal institutions, has long become obsolete, and its sittings were suspended many years ago, probably because the Lord of the Manor was indifferent to the assertion of his rights.

The old Court Leet was established by the Barons Audley, in the 13th century, at which Court all the neighbouring tenants were required to do

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suit and service. *Ward* gives a list of Chief Constables of Tunstall Manor Court from 1612 to 1691, but there is a list of them amongst the old papers which are still at Wolstanton Vicarage, from 1612—1757—which is interesting as giving us a register of the principal yeoman of the district. A copy is as follows :—

TUNSTALL COURT, 1612.

The names of those who have been elected to serve ye offices of a Constable are as followeth:—

Thos. Tellwright, of ye Sneyd, Ano ...	1612
John Turner, of Burslem	1613
George Twemlow, of Mowl	1614
Randel Whitehall, of Oldcott	1615
John Adams. of Burslem	1616
Wm. Leigh, of Burslem	1617
Ralph Adderley, of Tunstall	1618
John Maxfield, of Thursfield	1619
Wm. Colclough, of Burslem	1620
John Leigh, of Burslem	1621
John Rowley, of Hay Carr	1622
Thos. Shaw, of Great Chell	1623
Roger Smith, of Delfe Ridges	1624
Wm. Stonier, of Wedgwood (now John Mares)	1625
Thos. Bourne, of Little Chell	1626
Thos. Baddely, of Newfield	1627
Thos. Daniel, of Burslem	1628
John Whitehall, of Great Brookhouse ...	1629
Wm. Thursfield, for Fran. fforde, at Whitefield	1630
John Caulton, at Whitehill	1631
Francis Turner, of Greenway	1632
Richard Whitehall, of Cobbmore ...	1633
John Bromley, of Sneyd, for Handley's house	1634
John Wood, of Oldcott	1635
Thos. Mitchell, of Burslem	1636
Jno. Daniel, of Burslem	1637
Jno. Drakefoot, of Wedgwood (now Wm. Lows)	1638
Wm. Tunstall, of Ramscliff	1639
Thos. Bourne, of Coloclough Lane ...	1640
Wm. Whitehall, of Stoneley Fields ...	1641

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John Broode, of Halley-Wall 1642
John Caulton, of Stadmorslow... ... 1643
James Beech, of Tunstall 1644
Wm. Bourne, of Yewtree 1645
Anthony Beech, of Ramscliff 1646
John Salmon, of Thursfield 1647
Randel Pool, of Hayhead 1648
Wm. Burslam, of Brownlee 1649
Richrd. Drakefoot, of Stonetrough ... 1650
Jno. Bourne, of Little Chell, for a house in Great Chell 1651
Edward Cotton, of Chatterley 1652
James Rowley, of Ramscliff 1653
Robert Cartwright, of Ridgway ... 1654
Richard Podmore, of Mole 1655
Thomas Leigh, of Jackfield 1656
John Wood. of Bullocks house 1657
Thos. Mitchell, of Biker 1658
Thos. Beech, of Mill-house 1659
Randel Baddiley, for Park 1660
Henry Bourn, for Clanway 1661
John Rowley, for Gill Bank 1662
Thos. Leigh, for Broadfield house ... 1663
Wm. Bourn, of Great Chell 1664
Thos. Pool, for Hardingwood 1665
Randel Baddeley, for Jno. Baggiley, of Outclough 1666
Jno. Caulton, for Brieryhurst 1667
Henry Mountford, for Mr. Dickinsons house in Whitefield 1668
Richard Sherratt, for Dales green ... 1669
Thos. Johnson for Thos. Harrison, of ye Hedgfield house 1670
Thos. Harrison for Geo. Hanson, of Bent-hays 1671
Richard Keeling, of Lane End 1672
Burslem Wedgwood 1673
Jno. Bourn, of GR. Chell, for a house of Mr. Bourn in Gt. Chell 1674
Thos. Johnson, serv'd for Mr. Rowley. of Ridway, for Twemblows house ... 1675
Richard Daniel, for his house in Burslem ... 1676
John Whitehall, for his house in Lane End... 1677
John Caulton, for Rich. Baddiley, of Bank house 1678
John Bourne, of Great Chell, serv'd for Mr. Jno. Bourne, of Little Chell, for Chell heath house 1679

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Thos. Daniel serv'd for Crockitts house ... 1680
Phill. Machin, of Park 1681
Thos. Malkin, of Jackfield 1682
William Child, for Tunstall 1683
Randel Whitehall, of Turnhurst ... 1684
Richard Lawton, for Stadmoorslow ... 1685
Wm. Stevenson, for Bankhouse 1686
Richard Hargreeves, for Abnetts house in Whitefield 1687
Richard Brown, of Ridgway 1688
Thomas Adams, of Bem-bersly 1689
Jno. Adams, of ye Brick house 1690
Jno. Broad, for Jno. Turners house in Chappell 1691
Richd. Keeling, of Lane-end, served for Wedgwood house 1692
Jno. Baddiley serv'd for his house in Tunstall 1693
Samuel Cartletch served for ye Sneyd house 1694
Joshua Leigh serv'd for his house in Burslem 1695
Richard Keeling, of Lane End, serv'd for Mr. Alsager's house in Great Chell ... 1696
Thos. Malkin serv'd for a house of Mr. Burrese in Burslem 1697
Ralph Horne serv'd for Bratts house, Chell Heath 1698
Wm. Cartwright serv'd for his house in Briery Hurste 1699
Thos. Cartwright, of Burslem, serv'd for Jno. Boulton, of Gouldon Hill ... 1700
John Bayley, serv'd for James Ffordes house in Ridgway 1701
Wm. Child serv'd for Jonathan Podmores house in ye Brookhouse 1702
Jno. Daniel serv'd for James Pools house, Hardingwood... 1703
Henry Mountford serv'd for ye Upperhouse at Bank 1704
Edward Ball serv'd for the Hole House ... 1705
Jno. Daniel serv'd for Mr. Bourn for the Upperhouse in Little Chell ... 1706
James Stanway serv'd Brimlyford house ... 1707
James Tellwright serv'd for Thos. Rathbones house at Kidcrew 1708
Dr. Wedgwood serv'd for a house of Mr. Burrous in Burslem 1909
Thos. Copland serv'd for Burslem Wedgwoods house 1710
Thos. Copland serv'd for Jno. Colocloughs house in Kidcrew 1711

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Wm. Beech serv'd for Broadway Hall ... 1712
Jno. Cartlich serv'd for his house at Brown hills 1713
Samuel Perry serv'd for ye Peacoks Hay ... 1714
Jno. Stevenson serv'd for ye Pinnicks house... 1715
Jno. Marsh serv'n for John Ffordes, Harrisey-head 1716
Jno. Stevenson serv'd for Mr. Beardd, of Stone-trough 1717
Jno. Stevenson serv'n for Mr. Townsends, Dalesgreen 1718
Ralph Ridgway for his house at Tunstall ... 1719
James Perry serv'd for Chatterley ... 1720
Ralph Beech serv'd for Broadd, of the Park... 1721
Thos. Marsh serv'd for Bathehouse ... 1722
Thos. Marsh serv'd for his house at Rames Cliffe 1723
Thos. Marsh serv'd for Moses Marshes house in Burslem 1724
Richard Allen for Jno. Malkins house of ye Jackfield 1725
Richard Allen for Dr. Wedgwoods house called Rowleys 1726
Jno. Horne for Moses house at Lane-End ... 1727
James Perry for Hayhouse near Bradwall ... 1728
Thos. Copland for Mr. Thos. Bourns, new house called Sandy Butts... ... 1729
Thos. Copland for ye lower house at Bank... 1730
Thos. Copland for Thos. Burslems house at Harriseahead 1731
Richard Allen for Wm. Whitealls at Green Doles 1732
Richard Allen for James Moats of ye Wind-mill house, late John Walklets ... 1733
Richard Allen for Paul Sholdens house in Burslem 1734
Thos. Cartwright for Saint Aaron Shaws in Burslem 1735
Thos. Cartwright for Mr. Turners house in Burslem held by John Mollott ... 1736
Thos. Cartwright for Thos. Wedgwood of the Churchyard in Burslem 1737
Thos. Cartwright for Hugh Mares house att Cobridge gate 1738
Thos. Cartwright for Wm. Steevensons house of ye Annatts green in Burslem ... 1739
Thos. Taylor for his house in Burslem, late Wm. Shoobottoms 1740

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Tho. Cartlidg for the half Acre... ... 1741
Josiah Simpson of Burslem 1742
Tho. Buckley for Rod Hall at Dales green ... 1743
Saml. Doorbar for Mr. Goulds new house near Redstreet 1744
Saml. Doorbar for Mr. Lawtons house at Onlong lane 1745
Saml. Doorbar for Mr. Thos. Wedgwoods house in Burslem 1746
Saml. Doorbar for Jno. Shrigleys house in Burslem (formerly Mr. Ralph Shaws... 1747
Randle Whytall for Sandymoor in Chatterley 1748
Jno. Cinstin for John heaths house at Harriseyhead, in Stadmorslow Hamil, for: merly Wm. Low's 1749
Wm. Hancock for Mr. Parrs house at Harriseahead in Stadmorslow Hamil ... 1750
Thos. Clowes for Mr. Willsons house at Kidcrew, called the Ffeld house ... 1751
Thos. Daniel for his house at the Hob House in Burslem 1752
Thos. Storey for a new house in Burslem built by Mr. Jno. Adams, and inhabited by the said Thos. Storey 1753
Thos. Storey for Lower Dogcroft house in Sneyd Hamil 1754
John Marsh for a house at Chatterley in the holding of Wm. Hancock, formerly Richd. Allens 1755
Wm. Machin for Mr. Jno. Shrigleys house and estate in Tunstall, formerly Ridgways 1756
Saml. Smith for Broadwall Park ... 1757

Turning to modern times again, the first Chief Bailiff under the Public Health Act, (1848)—which was applied to Tunstall in 1855,—was Mr. Enoch Wedgwood, and as Tunstall is now likely to be federated with the other Pottery towns under one head, we give a list of those who have been chosen as Chief Bailiffs (Chairmen of the Urban District Council since 1895) up to the present time, to whom we are indebted

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for the prosperous and well organized Tunstall of to-day. For further particulars as to the Municipal affairs of Tunstall we would refer the reader to the local directories.

The following is a list of Chief Bailiffs:

ENOCH WEDGWOOD, from 4th October	... ...	1855
" " appointed for year	... ...	1856
ANTHONY SHAW (resigned 11th Nov.)	... ...	1857
ENOCH WEDGWOOD	...	
THOMAS PEAKE ... ... appointed for year		1858
" " ... ... "	"	1859
" " ... ... "	"	1860
" " ... ... "	"	1861
RICHARD BLACKHURST ... "	"	1862
" " ... ... "	"	1863
ROBERT BESWICK ... ... "	"	1864
WILLIAM EMBERTON ... ... "	"	1865
" " ... ... "	"	1866
JABEZ JAS. HANCOCK ... ... "	"	1867
" " " ... ... "	"	1868
WILLIAM E. OULSMAN ... "	"	1869
GEORGE WARDLE TURNER ... "	"	1870
ROBERT HEATH ... ... "	"	1871
WILLIAM ADAMS ... ... "	"	1872
ROBERT C. CLIVE ... ... "	"	1873
CHARLES JAMES HOMER ... "	"	1874
" " " ... "	"	1875
JOHN MOULDS ... ... "	"	1876
" " ... ... "	"	1877
THOMAS I EMBERTON ... "	"	1878
RALPH HAMMERSLEY ... "	"	1879
" " ... "	"	1880
" " ... "	"	1881
GEORGE CUMBERLIDGE ... "	"	1882
" " ... "	"	1883
JOHN NASH PEAKE ... ... "	"	1884
" " " ... ... "	"	1885
THOMAS G. BOOTH ... ... "	"	1886
" " ... ... "	"	1887
" " ... ... "	"	1888
" " ... ... "	"	1889
CHARLES PYATT ... ... "	"	1890
" " ... ... "	"	1891

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George Wilks	...	...	"	"	1892
" "	...	...	"	"	1893
" to lapse of Local Board in December,					1894

Tunstall Urban District Council.

George Wilks from 17th December, 1894, to Annual Meeting, April,					1895
" "	...	...	appointed for year		1895
William Boulton	...	...	"	"	1896
" "	...	...	"	"	1897
" "	...	...	"	"	1898
" "	...	...	"	"	1899
John Baskeyfield	...	...	"	"	1900
" "	...	...	"	"	1901
Henry Smallman	...	...	"	"	1902
" "	...	...	"	"	1903
" "	...	...	"	"	1904
Arthur Cotton	...	...	"	"	1905
" "	...	...	"	"	1906
Henry Smallman	...	...	"	"	1907

List of Clerks.

V. Lowndes	...	...	...	1855—1871
John Edward Cooper	...	...	...	1871—1874
Henry Wm. Ackrill	...	...	...	1874—1883
Arthur Price Llewellyn		...	...	1883—

Surveyors.

Ralph Hales	...	...	...	1855—1875
A. R. Wood	...	...	...	1875—

The present Town Hall is a structure of red brick and stone, built in 1883 in the Renaissance style. The Victoria Institute built in 1889 to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, comprises a School of Art, Technology, Public Library, and Museum. Immediately behind this building are the Public Baths, Fire Engine Station, Drill Hall, &c., all these fine public buildings were built from designs by Mr. A. R. Wood, Architect and Town Surveyor. But these

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and other public buildings and places of worship are well described in the local directories. In the Market Place used to stand the Old Town Hall which was built in 1816, chiefly through the exertions of Mr. John Henry Clive, of Chell, (ancestor of the present Clive family) upon a piece of land called the Stony Croft, purchased from Walter Sneyd, Esquire. The lower part of that Town Hall contained an Engine House for two fire Engines, prison or lock-up; the rest of the basement being arched and used for storing the market stalls. The upper story contained a room adapted for transacting public business. At the time of building the Town Hall in 1816, the institution of a Chief Constable for the general government of the Town was inaugurated. The Chief Constable had to be sworn in by the Magistrates. Mr. J. H. Clive was the first Chief Constable under this arrangement.

An inscription on a Table affixed in the interior of Tunstall Court house was as follows:—

THIS COURT HOUSE

was erected and the Market established, by private subscriptions, in the year 1816.

The land was given by Walter Sneyd Esquire, for a term of five hundred years, at the clear yearly rent of Five Guineas; and for a further term of Ninety-nine Years, from the end

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of the said term of Five hundred Years, at such Fine and Annual Rent as shall be fixed by two indifferent persons, or by an umpire to be appointed by them, every twenty-one years of the said term of Ninety-nine Years.

The buildings were erected by the charge of the following Subscriptions, in shares of Twenty-five pounds each:—

	Shares.
Walter Sneyd (Keele)	8
Ralph Hall (Tunstall)	2
John Meir (Tunstall)	2
Benjamin Adams (Greengates) ...	2
Roylance Child (Tunstall)	1
John Henry Clive (Chell)	1
Charles Powys	1
Henry Powys	1
James Steel	1
Hugh Henshall Williamson	1
John Rathbone	1
Thomas Knight	1
James Knight	1
Joseph Knight	1
John Boden...	1
Charles Hulse	1
John Gray	1

(*Then followed a list of Rules*)

Ralph Hall, Treasurer.

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The "stocks" were in front of the building facing the present Town Hall, the offenders (there was room for two) having to sit on the lower of the two steps of the building.

Tailor Bailey was one of the most frequent offenders; he was allowed to exercise his calling of a tailor when in the stocks, and would often be seen making waistcoats and other garments. Another prisoner was the Town Crier, who, when needed to follow his business would be allowed "out" but the Bell would almost invariably have to be got out of pawn.*

This Town Hall was more or less rebuilt in 1857, and was pulled down in 1892. Upon its site stands a Clock Tower, erected to the memory of Sir Smith Child, Bart., of Stallington Hall, and late of Newfield, Tunstall.† His grandfather was Admiral Child, of Newfield, which member of the Child family for a short time worked a pottery near his house (Newfield Pottery).

We have already mentioned Admiral Child (p. 22). He was the eldest son of Smith Child, of Audley, by Mary, daughter of Randle Baddeley

* Reminiscences from Mr. David Sherwin, Mr. Wm. Beech, and Messrs. Capey, to all of whom the author is grateful for giving information bearing upon Tunstall, and confirming some historical facts.

† The Tower has a bronze portrait bust of Sir Smith Child, by J. S. Cartlich.

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SMITH CHILD OF NEWFIELD, ESQUIRE,
Admiral of the Blue.
Born 1730—Died 1813.

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of Newfield. Her brother Thomas Baddeley who died in 1770, was the last of the Baddeleys of that place. Soon after the foregoing date Admiral Child came to live at Newfield, he having previously dwelt at Newcastle-under-Lyme. He married in 1764, Margaret, daughter and heiress of Thomas Roylance, of Audley. In the Churchyard at Wolstanton, where many of the Childs are buried, is a marble slab with several generations of names of the family inscribed.

The last Child, of Newfield, was Sir Smith, created a Baronet in 1868. He was Conservative Member for North Staffordshire 1851—1859, and for West Staffordshire 1868—1874. He married in 1835, Sarah, daughter and heiress of Richard Clarke Hill, of Stallington Hall.

Tunstall Public Park is in course of construction upon land purchased from the Chatterley-Whitfield Co; Adams, and Cartlich families, and seems likely to be one of the most charming in the Pottery district, from the way it has been laid out, and its situation. A clock tower has recently been erected near the front gates to the memory of William Adams, of Greenfield (and Wolstanton) and his predecessors who have been landowners, Tanners, Parsons, Master Potters, and Colliery proprietors in the locality time out of mind.

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The late Mr. John Nash Peake, a gentleman very enterprising for Tunstall's benefit, gave the fine wrought iron gates in Tunstall Park, (which were made in the town at the foundry of Mr. Wm. Durose). There are other gifts made by various gentlemen which add to the beauty of the Park.

The first Drill Hall in Tunstall was in the Market Hall, which was twice the area it is now, for it included a portion of the present Town Hall. Captain William Adams, Lieut. John Nash Peake, and Ensign W. Bull, were the first officers at Tunstall.

Tunstall to-day boasts many important Potteries, namely, Messrs. Grindleys, Messrs. Alfred Meakin Ltd., one of Messrs. Johnson's Works, Messrs. Booths, and many others. The Adams factories, which are still worked by the family, we have already mentioned. There are also the Chatterley-Whitfield; Williamson's and other important Collieries and Iron Works in the district; Messrs. Peake's and other Tileries. Messrs. Robert Heath & Sons' huge Collieries and Iron Works are situated but a short distance away.

Allusion to the once fine old Farm House at Chell, with the date 1631 over the doorway should not be forgotten, it was the ancient home of the old yeoman family of Bourne, a much

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respected name in the district. Some 150 years ago they owned the greater part of Chell. There were also Bournes at Bemersley, in the 18th century, probably, originally, of the same family.

Tunstall Wake is held on the 20th July, in honour of S. Margaret, the patron Saint of the Mother Church of Wolstanton.

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INDEX.

A. Page

Abnett, William ... 47
Ackrill, H. W. ... 99
Adams, Nicholas ... 13
Adams, family of 14, 30, 37, 39, 60
Adams, William 14, 25, 56, 67, 81 84, 98, 103
Adams, Edward 22, 38, 55
Adams, Lettice ... 37
Adams, Lewis ... 38, 62, 64
Adams, Sarah ... 63
Adams, Benjamin ... 101
Adderley, Mrs. ... 48
Alcock, John 56
Alcock, Ralph ... 56
Algar, Earl of Mercia ... 9
Alsager, Family of ... 90
ALTONSFIELD ... 84
ANTIOCH 17
Ardern, Rev. 52
ASTBURY 20
Attwood, family of ... 60
Audley, Henry de ... 13
Audleys, Lords of Heley... 30, 69
AUDLEY 47, 57, 84
Audley, Nicholas de ... 41
Audley, James de ... 89

B.

Baddeley, John... ... 34, 35
Baddeley, William ... 49
Baddeley, Ralph ... 59
Baddeley, family of ... 81
Baddeley, Randle ... 102
Baddeley, Thos. ... 103
Baggenold, Robt. ... 34
Bagnall, Ralph ... 48
Bagot, Rev. Ralph ... 42
Bagot, Lord 77
Baker, George 29
Barns, Rev. Thos. ... 3, 13
Barnett, Rev. John ... 42
Barrowe, Thos.... ... 29
Basford Hall 65, 66
Baskeyfield, John ... 99
Beech & Lowndes ... 85
Beech, Mr. Wm. ... 102

Page

BEMERSLEY 84
Bennett, family of 22, 30, 36, 39, 53, 81
Bennett, John 55
Bennett, Luke 55
Beswick, Robert ... 98
BETLEY 84
BIRCHENWOOD ... 84
Birches Head Manor ... 13
Birtles, Thos. 40
Bishops, British ... 1, 8
Blaby, Rev. William de ... 41, 81
Blackhurst, R 98
Blagg, Mr. 63
Booth, Anthony ... 36
Booth, Enoch 85
Booth, Thos. G. ... 98
Booths, Messrs.... ... 104
Botiler, Nicolas ... 69
Boulton, William ... 99
Bourne, Ralph 25, 33
Bourne, Wm. 34, 35
Bourne, Thos. 34, 35
Bourne, Richard 34, 35, 36
Bourne, Joseph... ... 49
Bourne, Wm., Junior ... 59
BOVIO 3, 5
Bowers 85
Bowyer, Rev. Andrew ... 41
Bowyer, John 60
Bowyer, family of ... 89
Boyle, John 22
Brabazon, Rev. John de ... 41
BRADWELL 12, 69. 70, 71, 83, 84
BRAMPTON, The ... 62, 64
Brett, John 25, 33, 34
Brett, family of 37, 69, 72, 73, 81
Brett, Edward 44, 48
Brett, Ranulph... ... 79
BRIDE STONES ... 2
Bridgewater, Duke of ... 60
Bridgewater Canal ... 90, 91
BRIERYHURST ...57, 58, 84
Briggs, Rev. D. H. ... 89
Brindley, James ... 90, 91
Bristall, Randull ... 21
Bristols 22

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

Page

Browne, Rev. E. R. ... 59
Buckley, John ... 56
BUCKNALL ... 13
Bullock, Thos. ... 35
BUNBURY ... 5
Burgennoey, Stephen de... 41
BURSLEM 14, 62, 68, 83, 84, 88
Burslem, family of ... 14
Burslem, William ... 35
Burslem, Thos. ... 35
Burslem Parish Church ... 13
Butler, Rev. H. E. ... 39, 42
Bygott, Rev. J. P. ... 59

C.

Campbell, Rev. T. ... 88
Canterbury, Archbishop of 10, 55
Capey, Messrs. ... 102
Capps, Rev. Francis ... 42
Carless, Rev. Edward ... 60
Carter, Rev. William ... 59, 88
Cartlich, John ... 49
Cartlich, family of 64, 91, 92, 103
Celts, the 6, 7
Chad, St. 8
Challinor, Charles 37, 56, 66, 67
Challinor, Miss ... 54
Challinor, William ... 66
Chalton, John ... 35
Charles I. 42
CHATTERLEY 57, 58, 70, 84, 87
Chatterley, Thomas ... 81
CHELL ... 57, 58, 84
CHESTER ... 4
Chester, Rev. William ... 42
CHESTERTON 3, 5, 6, 14, 47, 57, 58, 73, 84
Chester, Earl of ... 10
Chetwynd, Walter ... 11
Child, Admiral ... 22, 102
Child, Thomas ... 49, 85
Child, Sir Smith, Bart 55, 102, 103
Child, Roylance ... 86, 101
Childs, the ... 85
CLAYTON ... 82

Page

Clive, R. C. 98
Clive, J. H. 99, 101
Clowes, William ... 66
Codrington, Mr. ... 4
Colclough, Sir Thomas 14, 25, 33
Colclough, Mrs. ... 34
Colclough, Richard ... 34, 35
Colclough, James ... 35
Coldham, Rev. H. R. ... 89
Colmers, Mr.... ... 35
CONDATE ... 3, 4
Constables of Tunstall Court Leet 93-97
Cooper, J. E. 99
Cornavii 2
Cotton, Squire ... 53
Cotton, Arthur ... 99
Cowell, John & Christabel 31, 47
CREWE 68
Cromwell 43
CROSS HEATH ... 66
Cumberlidge, G. ... 98

D.

Dale, Mr. 47
Dale, Rev. Henry de la ... 41
Danes, the 24
Davenport, Harry T. ... 56
Davenport, family of ... 60, 64
Davenport, William ... 62, 63
Davenport, Henry ... 64
DERBY 7
DEVA 3
DIMSDALE 10, 48, 64, 65, 69, 73, 74, 80
Ditchfield, P. H. ... 46
Domesday 11
Drakeford, William ... 35
DRAYCOTT ... 17
Drayford, Richard ... 35
Dryden, the Poet ... 32
DUNKIRK ... 6
Dwight, John ... 71

E.

Eardley, Edward ... 45

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

	Page
Eardleys	22
Eatons	22, 54
Edgeworth, Maria ...	79
Edmund, Earl of Lancaster	10
Edward the Confessor ...	9
Edward I.	10, 12
Edward III.	30
Edward VI.	12, 34
Egerton, family of ...	90
Elers, John Philip ...	71, 78
Elers, David ...	71
Elers, Admiral ...	78
Elers, Capt. George ...	79
Elizabeth, Queen	12, 42. 46, 47
Ellison, Rev. Chas. Christopher	40
Elsmore & Forster ...	85
Emberton, W.	98
ENDON	84
Erdeswick	43
Evans, Rev. L. H. ...	88

F.

FENTON	11
Fenton, Thomas ...	54
Ferneyhough, Rev. John...	42
Ferrers, Earl of Derby ...	10
Foden, Rev. William ...	42
Ford, Rev. William ...	42, 52
Forshaw, Rev. Thurstan...	59
Foulea Brook ...	13

G.

GAUL	6
Gentleman's Magazine ...	25, 31
Gilbert, John ...	60
Gladuin	69
Goduin	69
GREENFIELD ...	63, 90
Gregge, Rev. John ...	41
GRETTON	84
Grindley's, Messrs. ...	104

H.

Hales, R.	99
Hall, Ralph	101
Hall, family of ...	85
Hammersley, Ralph ...	98
Hancock, J. J.	98
HANLEY	11
Hardicanute	9
Harding, Rev. John ...	42, 60
HARECASTLE ...	68
Harrison, Thomas, the Regicide	73
Harvey, Rev. G. G. ...	88
Hassells, Thomas ...	56, 66
Hawes, Rev. Robert, D.D.	88
Heale, Rev. W. H. ...	42
Heath, Lewis	63
Heath, Robert	98
Heaths, The	85
HELEIGH	3
HEMPSTALLS, The ...	64
Henry, King of Navarre ...	10
Henry, VIII.	12
Henshall, John	91
Hewson, Roger... ...	59
Hillary, Rev. Richard ...	41
Holedich, Richard de ...	77
Holdich	69, 77
Hollins, Warburton & Co.	85
Homer, C. J.	98
Horsley	4
HORTON	84
How, Bishop Walsham ...	45
Hugh of the Delves ...	89
Hulme, Robert	48, 86
Hulse, Charles	101
HULTON ABBEY ...	13, 42
Hyatt, Thomas... ...	38, 67
Hyatt, William...	29, 31, 67

J.

Jeffcock, Rev. J. T.	22, 42, 53, 56, 66, 77
John, King of England ...	10, 11
John of Gaunt	11
John, Lord Gower ...	39
Johnson, Messrs. ...	104

K.

KEELE ...	12, 20, 58, 69, 70, 71

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

	Page
Keeling, Rev. Isaac ...	42, 43
Keeling, Anthony ...	85
KIDSGROVE	60
Kinnersley, family of ...	60
Kinnersley, Thomas ...	55
Knight, Richard ...	34
KNUTTON	31, 47, 57, 67, 77, 81

L.

Lancaster, Duchy of ...	11
Lancaster, Duke of ...	82
Lancaster, Earl of ...	81
Landers, John	35
Lanfranc	9
Lawton, Mrs.	34
Lawton, Richard ..	52
Lawton, John	59
Ledward, S. P.... ...	56
Ledwards, family of ...	22
Leech, John	54
LEICESTER	7
Lewthwaite, Wm. ...	54
Lichfield, Bishop of ...	50, 55
LIVERPOOL	68
Llewellyn, Mr. A. P. ...	87, 99
Lodge, Oliver	67
Lodge, Sir Oliver ...	67
LONGBRIDGE HAYES	66
LONGPORT	67
LONGSDON	84
LONGTON	11
Louis VIII.	10
Lowe, William... ...	52
Lowndes, Mr.	99
Lug	16
Lugnassad Fair ...	16
Lynam, Mr.	7

M.

Macclesfield, John ...	25, 33
Macclesfields, family of ...	73
Maiden, Huntsman ...	64
Malbon, Thomas ...	59
MAMVCIO	3

	Page
MANCHESTER ...	4
MANUCIUM	4
Manors	8
Marsh, Capt. F. G. ...	76
Marsh, family of ...	76
Marsh, James	56
Marsh, Richard... ...	44, 45
Marsh, Thomas ...	44
MARSH, THE ...	51, 61, 62
Martinmas	6
Mayers, family of ...	22
Meakins, Messrs. ...	104
Meare, Richard... ...	35
MEDIOLANUM ...	3, 4
Meirs, family of ...	85
MERCIA	1
Middleton, Rev. Samuel ...	42, 52
MILAN	6
Miles, Alexander ...	35
Mills, John	52
MILTON	13
Milward	44
Moreton, family of	30, 37, 39, 40, 81
Minton, Herbert ...	22
Moreton House... ...	65
Moreton, Hugh... ...	35
Moreton, Ralph ...	52, 59
Moreton, Thomas ...	51
Moulds, J.	98
MOW COP	60, 75

N.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	11
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME	11, 12, 15, 62, 73, 74
NEWCHAPEL	48, 57, 58, 59
Newenham, Rev. William de	41
NEWFIELD ...	15, 22, 90, 103
Newill, Rev. Samuel ...	88
Nicholas IV., Pope ...	12
Noble, Rev. Mark, F.S.A.	61
Noel, Lady Frances ...	47
Norman Conquest ...	8
NORTHWICH ...	4
NORTON	84

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

Page

O.

Oakes, Samuel 45, 56
OLDCOTT ... 57, 58, 84
Olyve, Rev. John ... 41
Oulsnam, W. E. ... 98

P.

Parker, Robert 35, 75
Payne, John 52
Peake, John Nash ... 98, 104
Peake, Samuel 55
Peake, Thomas... ... 98
Penda... 1
PENKHULL 82
Penny, Rev. A.... ... 89
Pitman, Rev. A. A. ... 88, 89
Plot, Dr. 14, 15
Podmore, Richard ... 35
Podmore, Walker & Co.... 85
Porthill House 66
Powys, Charles and Henry 101
Pottery 14
Prince, William ... 35
Pyatt, C. 98
Pyrehill Hundred ... 11

R.

Rae, Rev. C. D. ... 59
RAVENSCLIFFE 57, 58, 84
RED STREET ... 5
Rheads, family of 22, 76, 78
Richard the Forester ... 69
Richard II 82
Robert, Earl of Artois ... 10
Robinson, William and Jane 31
Rogers, Spencer ... 55
ROMAN ROADS ... 3, 7
Rowley, James 35
Rowley, Jeffry 35
Rowley, John 35
Rowley, William and Ann 44, 45
RUTUNIUM 4

S.

SAINTES 6
Salford, Rev. John de ... 41, 82
Salmon, T. F. 59
Salt Library 11

Page

SANDBACH 68
Sartling, Rev. John ... 41
S. Augustine 1, 6
Saxons, The 7
Scarratt, Mr. William ... 87
Schools, Wolstanton National 54
SEABRIDGE 82
Sentinel, The 61
Shaw, Anthony ... 98
Shaw, Thomas 36
Shaw's History of Stoke... 12
Shelley, Rev. Richard ... 42, 43
Sherwin, Mr. David ... 102
SILVERDALE... ... 67
Slade, Ralph 35
Slip-ware 23
Smallman, Mr. Henry ... 92, 99
S. Margaret ... 16, 17, 18, 29
Smith, John of Tatnall ... 91
Smith, Samuel and Martha 21, 76
Smiths, (Potters) ... 85
SNEYD ... 12, 13, 84
Sneyd, family of 12, 24, 29, 32 37, 38, 69, 71
Sneyd, Dryden 60
Sneyd, Rev. Edward ... 42, 52
Sneyd, John 81
Sneyd, Mrs. J. 44
Sneyd, Rev. Lewis 42, 49, 60
Sneyd, Ralph ... 27, 29, 32, 34, 43, 54, 55, 67, 77
Sneyd, Rev. Wettenhall ... 42
Sneyd, Wm. ... 15, 35, 37
Sneyd, Sir William 29, 46, 83
Sneyd, Rev. Walter 42, 53, 77, 101
S. Nicholas 18, 19
Sparch Hollow... ... 74
Sparrow, Mr. & Mrs. 40, 49, 54, 91
Spode, Josiah 91
STADMORESLOW ... 57, 84
STAFFORD 3
Staffordshire Advertiser ... 22
Stanier, family of 22, 37, 39
Stanier, Francis ... 55
Steele, Rev. O. W, ... 42, 66
Steele, James 101

Digitized by Google

INDEX.

Page

Stephenson, Rev. Henry ... 41
Stocks, The 34
STOKE-UPON-TRENT 11, 14, 68
Stoke Wake 16
Stonehewer, Joshua ... 59
Sutherland, Duke of ... 54
S. Wulstan 9, 37

T.

Talbot, John 36
TALKE 46, 84
Taylor, Rev. Richard ... 42
Tertullian 1
Tellwright, family of ... 60
Theodore, Archbishop ... 8
THURSFIELD 57, 58, 59, 84
Thursfield, Adam ... 81
TRENTHAM 39
TRUBSHAW CROSS ... 81
TUNSTALL 14, 22, 49, 57, 58, 62, 70, 80, 83, 84, 89
Tunstall, Christ Church ... 88
Tunstall, family of ... 70
Tunstall, James ... 36
Tunstall Manor Court ... 83, 92
Tunstall Museum ... 15
Tunstall, Ralph de ... 81
Turmore, Edward ... 54
Turmore, John 48
Turner, G. W. 98
Turner, Roger 33
Turner, William, F.S.S. ... 72, 84
TURNHURST... ... 90
Tyson, Rev. John 29, 31, 42, 55, 77

U.

Unwin, Edward ... 33, 47

V.

Vernon, Rev. Edward ... 36, 42
Vernon, family of ... 78
Victoria, Queen ... 39
Vivian, John 11, 41

W.

Ward's Hist. of Stoke 24, 29, 83, 93
WATLANDS, The ... 62, 65

Page

WEDGWOOD ... 57, 58
Wedgwood, Thomas ... 14
Wedgwood, Josiah ... 22, 84
Wedgwood, Henry ... 61
Wedgwood, Henry de ... 81
Wedgwood, Enoch ...85, 97, 98
Wedgwood, Philip Egerton 91
Wengham, Rev. Henry de 41
WHITFIELD ... 84
WHITMORE 68, 69
Wilford, Rev. Robert de... 41
Wilks, Mr. Geo. ... 99
William the Conqueror 8, 9
William IV. 55
William of Orange ... 71
Williamson, Robert ... 55, 91
Williamson, Hugh Henshall 55, 66, 91, 101
Williamson, Messrs. ... 104
WINDY ARBOUR ... 5
Winn, Rev. C. J. ... 42
WINWEAD ... 1
Wolstan ... 8, 9, 10, 74
WOLSTANTON ...2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 36, 47, 49, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 68, 81, 82, 83.
Wolstanton Church ... 8, 75, 87
Wolstanton Wake ... 16
Wolstanton Vicarage ... 93
Wood, Mr. A. R. ... 99
Wood, Edward 22, 37, 38, 55, 66, 67
Wood, John ... 25, 33, 35, 67
Wood, Enoch 37
Wood, Robert 35
Wood, Edmund T. W. ... 56, 67
Wood, Major 67
Wood, Mr. E. J. W. ... 67
Wood, family of ... 88
Woodhouse, John ... 52
Wooliscroft 12
Worcester Abbey ... 9
Worthington, Jonathan ... 60
WREKIN 16

Y.

Yonge, family of ... 30, 39

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